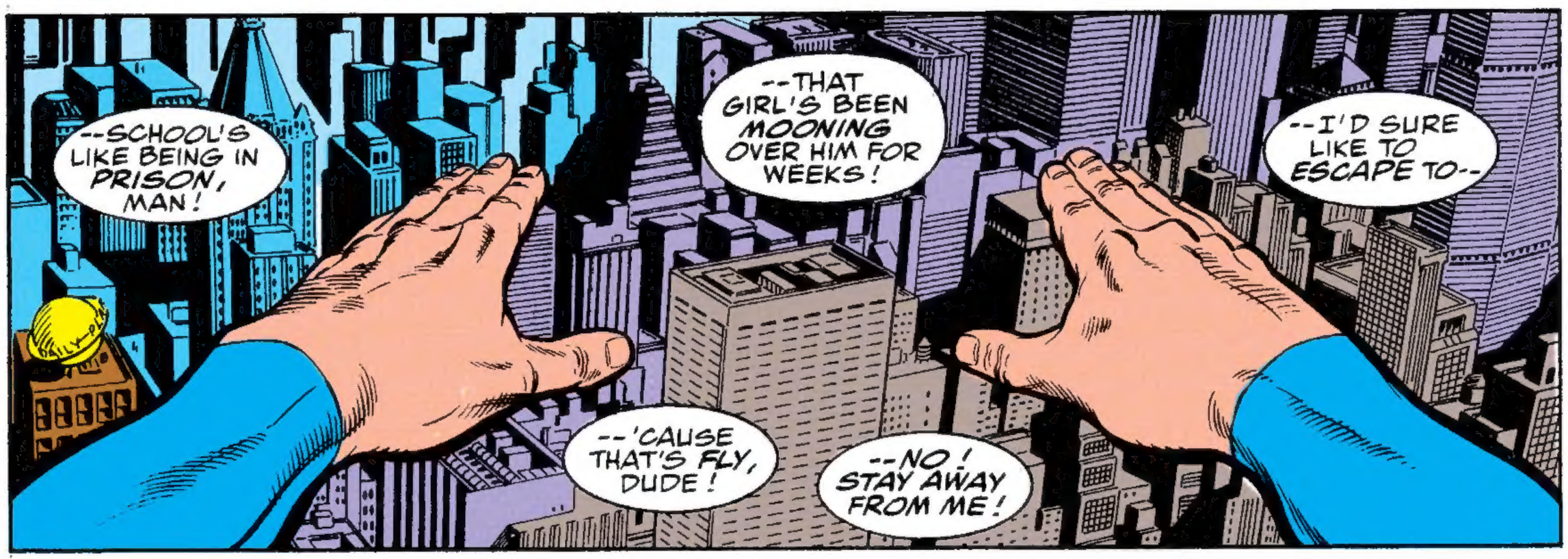
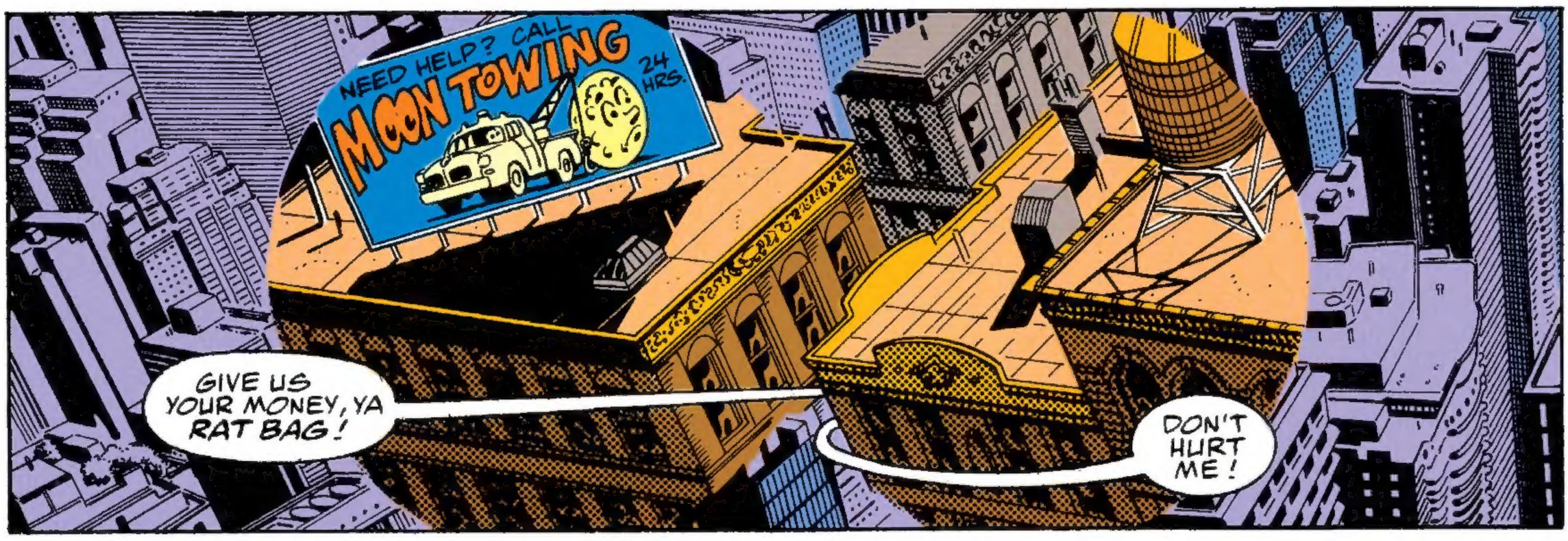
SUPERMAN

Post-CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS

Volume 44:

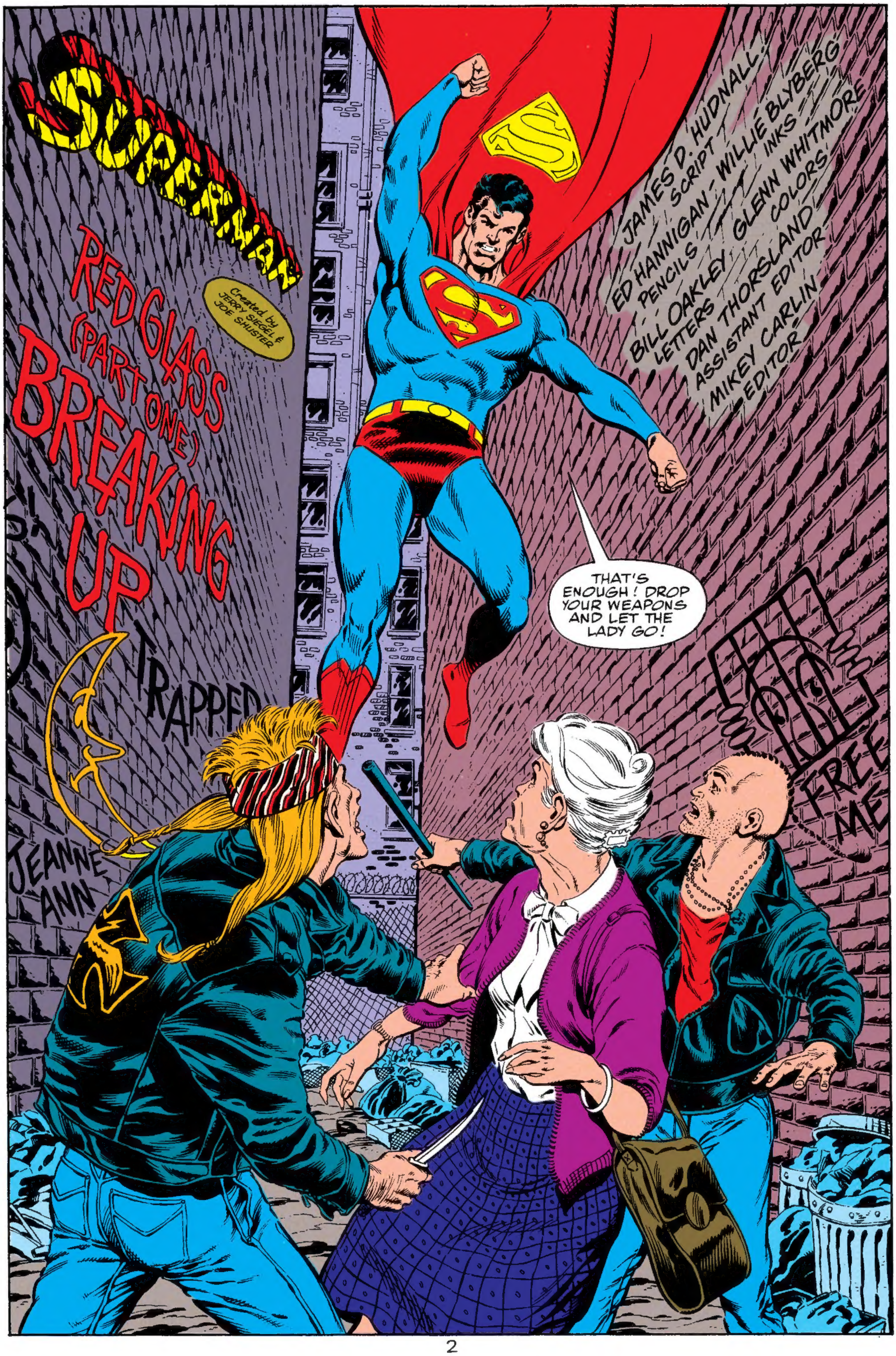
Red Glass


--SCHOOL'S LIKE BEING IN PRISON, MAN!
--THAT GIRL'S BEEN MOONING OVER HIM FOR WEEKS!
--I'D SURE LIKE TO ESCAPE TO--
--'CAUSE THAT'S FLY, DUDE!
--NO! STAY AWAY FROM ME!


NEED HELP? CALL MOON TOWING 24 HRS.
GIVE US YOUR MONEY, YA RAT BAG!
DON'T HURT ME!

SCREAM AND WE'LL CUT YOU!
HAND OVER THE PURSE LADY!

THAT MEANS NOW!


RED GLASS
(PART ONE)
BREAKING UP
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
JAMES D. HUDNALL
SCRIPT
ED HANNIGAN - WILLIE BLYBERG
PENCILS - INKS
BILL OAKLEY GLENN WHITMORE
LETTERS COLORS
DAN THORSLAND
ASSISTANT EDITOR
MIKEY CARLIN
EDITOR
THAT'S ENOUGH! DROP YOUR WEAPONS AND LET THE LADY GO!
I'M TRAPPED
JEANNE ANN
I'LL KILL FREE ME

D-DON'T KILL US, MAN!

WE DIDN'T MEAN IT! PLEASE! I DON'T WANT TO DIE!

I DON'T KILL PEOPLE.

I'M ONLY HERE TO STOP YOU FROM COMMITTING A CRIME.

GO AWAY, SUPERMAN! LEAVE US ALONE!

BUT...?

...I'M HERE TO HELP YOU, MA'AM!

HELP LIKE YOURS I DON'T NEED!

1122

PLEASE, SUPERMAN! DON'T KILL US!

M-MY FAMILY... THEY NEED ME!

RELAX. I TOLD YOU, I DON'T KI

LLLLLL!

GOOD LORD...!

THAT SONIC BLAST -- IT CAME OUT OF NOWHERE!

OR DID IT COME FROM --

HOLY--! LOOK AT ALL THIS DAMAGE!

SOMETHING FUNNY'S GOING DOWN HERE...

THAT WOMAN! MAYBE SHE CAN SHED SOME LIGHT ON WHAT'S JUST HAPPENED.

WHAT'S THAT PLACE SHE'S GOING INTO...?

Guy Weber's

OH...

MUSEUM OF DEAD VILLAINS

...THIS...

...ISN'T...

GENUINE FILM FOOTAGE!

SEE THE REMAINS OF THE MAN OF STEEL'S GREATEST ENEMIES!

SEE THE WRECKAGE OF BRAINIAC'S SPACESHIP!

MUSEUM OF DEAD VILLAINS

...POSSIBLE!

SUPERMAN'S DAY OF WRATH

WHAT KIND OF SICK...? MXYZPTLK!

FOOTAGE!

NO. IT'S NOT TIME YET!

ENEMIES!

SEE THE WRECKAGE OF BRAINIAC'S SPACESHIP!

I COULD JUST BE DREAMING, BUT--

GOOD LORD!

BRAINIAC PERHAPS... IF HE'S MANAGED TO SNEAK BACK INTO THIS VICINITY...

THIS IS NO DREAM... IT'S A NIGHTMARE!

1988
Known as "Superman's Day of Wrath"
On this day Superman decided to eliminate all his opponents on Earth. The killing actually lasted three weeks but in the end most of the villains who had opposed Superman during his career were dead.
This museum was established to remember that fateful day.

UNLESS... THIS IS REALITY... AND EVERYTHING ELSE I'VE KNOWN WAS THE DREAM!

APRIL 15, 1988
Known as "Superman's Day of Wrath"
On this day Superman decided to eliminate all his opponents on Earth. The killing actually lasted three weeks but in the end most of the villains who had opposed Superman during his career were dead.
This museum was established to remember that fateful day.

"SKELETON OF MR. MXYZPTLK ENCASED IN ALIEN CRYSTAL BY BRAINIAC IN AN EFFORT TO DEFEAT SUPERMAN. THE PLOY FAILED AND MR. MXYZPTLK DIED. (SEE BRAINIAC EXHIBIT)"

THIS IS RIDICULOUS... I CAN EASILY DETECT A PHONY ARTI-FACT WITH MY--

MISTER MXYZPTLK

OH... GOD...

IT'S REAL!

THAT'S A *REAL* SKELETON... *MXYZPTLK'S!*

THE PRANKSTER

PHOTO- J. DROWAY

TV KIDDIE SHOW HOST GONE BAD, THE PRANKSTER WAS DROPPED FROM SPACE AND DIS-INTEGRATED IN THE ATMOSPHERE. HERE ARE SOME OF THE GADGETS HE USED TO EMPLOY.

FAKE EYE

SQUIRTY FLOWER

JOY-BUZZER

CHAIN-SAW

METALLO

EVIL CYBORG CRIMINAL WHOSE BRAIN WAS VAPORIZED IN HIS METAL SKULL BY SUPERMAN'S HEAT VISION. THIS EMPTY SHELL IS ALL THAT REMAINS.

AND EVERYTHING ELSE HERE... I RECOGNIZE IT ALL!

THIS IS A *REAL* MUSEUM!

BRAINIAC

KILLED BY A BLOW TO THE HEAD AFTER A FAILED ATTEMPT TO HARNESS MR. MXYZPTLK'S POWERS. (REPLICA COURTESY OF MADAM TUSSAUD'S.)

BUT HOW?!

THE JOKER

PLACED IN A CELL ON THE MOON WITH ALMOST NO FOOD, WATER OR AIR. HE DIED IN THREE DAYS. (REPLICA COURTESY OF MADAM TUSSAUD'S.)

COULD I HAVE BEEN BLACKING OUT AGAIN... LOSING CONTROL AND--

DARKSEID

THIS BATTLE TOOK THE LONGEST, BUT SUPERMAN FINALLY KILLED THIS MONSTER ... AFTER DESTROYING HALF OF APOKOLIPS IN THE PROCESS. (REPLICA COURTESY OF MADAM TUSSAUD'S.)

NO!

THIS IS WRONG. ALL WRONG!

I *NEVER* KILL MY ENEMIES! *NEVER!*

SOMEONE IS MESSING WITH MY MIND! PUTTING ALL THIS IN MY--

WAIT! A HEARTBEAT...

THERE!

YOU THERE ! ARE YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THIS ?

D-DON'T KILL ME ! PLEASE ! I JUST WORK HERE ...

DON'T WORRY. JUST TELL ME THE *TRUTH*.

WHO'S DOING ALL THIS ? WHO DO YOU WORK *FOR* ?

WHY ... THE CITY OF METROPOLIS . THE PARKS AND MUSEUMS DEPARTMENT.

PLEASE ... YOU WANTED THE TRUTH ...

THIS PLACE WAS FUNDED BY CITY BONDS AND PRIVATE DONATIONS, MAINLY FROM LEX LUTHOR .

LUTHOR'S DEAD!

I DON'T BLAME HIM FOR WANTING YOU TO *THINK* THAT.

OH, WHY DID YOU HAVE TO COME BACK ?! WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE JUST STAYED AWAY ?!

BACK ? WHAT DO YOU MEAN ? WHERE DO YOU THINK I'VE BEEN ?

SILVER BANSHEE

NUKE

OTIS

MAXIMA

TOYMAN

BERT

BLOODSPORT

ABBY

YOU LEFT EARTH AFTER KILLING YOUR ENEMIES ! YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T WANT TO REMAIN HERE ANYMORE !

YOU *PROMISED* YOU WOULDN'T RETURN !

OH, NO. I DO REMEMBER NOW... SOMETHING...

I DID GO TO SPACE RECENTLY, BUT I CAN'T...

THANK YOU, SIR. YOU'VE BEEN A GREAT HELP.

OH, THANK GOD...

ALIVE.

EXIT

HE SAID LUTHOR'S STILL ALIVE!

MUSEUM

I GUESS IT'S POSSIBLE HE COULD HAVE TRICKED ME... HAVE TO GET TO THE LEXCORP BUILDING TO BE SURE!

WHAK

SORRY, MA'AM, I DIDN'T--

LOIS?!

SO, YOU'VE COME CRAWLING BACK! I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T STAY AWAY.

LOIS... WHAT HAPPENED? WHY ARE YOU IN A WHEELCHAIR?

DON'T INSULT ME WITH THE OLD INNOCENCE ROUTINE!

ARE YOU SO FAR GONE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN HOW YOU RUINED MY LIFE?

YOU'RE THE REASON I'M CRIPPLED! YOU DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO SAVE ME WHEN THE JOKER TOOK ME HOSTAGE!

WHEN HIS LAIR EXPLODED I WAS TRAPPED IN THE RUBBLE FOR THREE DAYS. MY SPINE WAS CRUSHED BY THE FALLEN DEBRIS.

EVERY OTHER TIME I WAS TRAPPED YOU AT LEAST TRIED TO HELP ME!

THIS WOMAN LOOKS AND SOUNDS LIKE LOIS...

...BUT I'VE COME UP AGAINST SOME PRETTY ELABORATE ANDROIDS BEFORE.

ANOTHER QUICK SCAN WITH MY SUPER-VISION AND--

YA-AAAA

MONSTER!
FREAK!
MURDERER!
GO AWAY!
GET OUT OF METROPOLIS!
WE DON'T WANT YOU!
GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM!
THIS IS HOUSTON...

WHOOOOOSSHH

THAT'S IT, LUTHOR...
...THIS TIME YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR!

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU WERE ABLE TO PULL OFF YOUR PHONY DEATH SO FLAWLESSLY...

... BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DRIVE ME MAD IN THE WAKE OF YOUR RETURN!

I'VE PERIODICALLY SCANNED THIS BUILDING SINCE LUTHOR'S PLANE WENT DOWN...

I THOUGHT I WAS JUST BEING PARANOID...

BUT IT'S NOT PARANOIA IF WHAT YOU FEAR TURNS OUT TO BE *REAL!*

THIS IS OUR *FINAL CONFLICT*, LUTHOR... THE END OF ALL OUR STRUGGLES!

LEXCORP

LUTHOR !!

SO YOU'VE FINALLY COME, HAVE YOU?

GULLER

COME TO GLOAT AT THE RUIN YOU'VE CAUSED ME? COME TO RUB MY FACE IN IT?

WELL, DON'T THINK YOU'VE WON YET, SUPER-MAN!

LEX LUTHOR DOESN'T GO DOWN ALONE.

CUT THE NONSENSE, LUTHOR-- WHAT'RE YOU UP TO HERE?

OKAY, MISTER LUTHOR, WE'LL BE TAKING THAT CRATE NOW. EVERYTHING ELSE HAS BEEN MOVED OUT.

FINE. THAT LEAVES ME *NOTHING*.

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!

YOU SERIOUS, PAL?

AIN'T YOU THE GUY WHAT *BANKRUPTED* HIM?

I'M AFRAID BOTH OF YOU WILL HAVE TO LEAVE THE PREMISES AND TAKE THIS ELSEWHERE.

THE NEW OWNERS WILL BE SENDING THEIR PEOPLE OVER SHORTLY.

I JUST HAVE ONE THING I WANT TO TELL YOU BEFORE IT'S OVER.

YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE I'VE EVER RESPECTED. YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE THAT MATTERED.

AND EVEN IF *I* CAN'T BE THE ONE TO BRING YOU DOWN--

--I'VE MADE SURE THAT YOUR ***WORST ENEMY*** WOULD HAVE WHAT HE NEEDED TO ***DESTROY*** YOU ONCE AND FOR ALL!

AND I DOUBT IF HE'LL SHOW YOU ***ANY MERCY*** AFTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO HIM!

ENOUGH, LUTHOR! ***WHAT'S HAPPENING?!***

EVERYTHING'S CRAZY! LOIS IS DEAD, THERE'S A MUSEUM OF SUPER-VILLAINS I'M SUPPOSED TO HAVE KILLED--!

NOW YOU'RE ALIVE AND BANKRUPT!

THIS IS ***INSANE!***

THE ONLY THING INSANE AROUND HERE IS ***YOU!***

IF YOU HADN'T DONE SO MUCH DAMAGE TO MY OPERATIONS, I WOULDN'T HAVE FALLEN INTO DEBT! I'D BE THE RICHEST MAN ALIVE!

IS IT BRAINIAC AGAIN, LUTHOR? IS THAT WHO'S BEHIND ALL THIS?

IS IT HIM... OR SLEEZ... OR MR. Z... ***WHO*** IS MY WORST ENEMY?!

YOU WERE MY WORST ENEMY!

MAYBE I WAS, AT ONE TIME. BUT WHAT YOU DID TO *HIM*...

HEH. I ALMOST PITY YOU, SUPERMAN.

ALMOST.

ZEEZEEZEEZ

JIMMY OLSEN'S SIGNAL WATCH! SOUNDS LIKE IT'S COMING FROM INSIDE THE BUILDING.

I'LL BE BACK, LUTHOR!

YOU AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE, *PAL!*

TURN AROUND, SUPERMAN...

I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO *SHOW* YOU!

WHAT--? *JIMMY!*

KRYPTONITE! ARRRGH!

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK IN THE **ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #479!**

the NEWSBOY LEGION

I'M SURE IT WON'T REALLY SURPRISE ANYONE, BUT I'LL MAKE IT *OFFICIAL*.

THE GUARDIAN'S GOING TO BE *ALL RIGHT*.

YAAAAY!

AW, IT'LL TAKE MORE DEN SOME D.N.ALIEN GALOOT TA TAKE DA *GAWDIAN* DOWN FER DA COUNT!

RIGHT, BIG WORDS?

INDISPU-TABLY!

GUESS YER KINDA LUCKY YA HAD US AS RE-INFRINGEMENTS, HUH?

COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU BOYS, SCRAPPER.

AN' *ANGRY CHARLIE!*

ANGRY CHARLIE?

GABBY'S... IMAGINARY FRIEND. AT LEAST, NO ONE *ELSE* HAS EVER SEEN HIM.

NO--HE'S *REAL*, TOMMY!

CHARLIE'S BIG AN' PINK AN' SUPER-STRONG AN'... AN' HE EATS *FURNITURE!*

GROIK!

Charlie & Company

KARL KESEL story & art • BILL OAKLEY letters • GLENN WHITMORE colorist • DAN THORSLAND assistant editor • MIKE CARLIN editor

YOUR IMAGINATION IS SEMPITERNAL, GABBY.
THIS *ISN'T* ONE OF MY STORIES, GUYS!
HEY-- THESE ALL YOUR *GUARDIAN* HELMETS?
CAREFUL, FLIP. THAT'S MY *HIGH-TECH* UNIT... INFRA-RED CAPABILITIES, SONIC ENHANCEMENT...
COOL!
I RECOGNIZE *THIS* ONE-- THE *FIRST* GUARDIAN HELMET, FROM BACK WHEN WE LIVED IN SUICIDE SLUM...
...VENDING DAILY PLANETS TO PROCURE INCOME...
...CLEANIN' DA CLOCKS O' MUGS LIKE B.O. GOODLEY AN' BOSS MOXIE!
WELL, RELIVE PAST GLORIES ELSEWHERE, BOYS. VISITING HOURS ARE OVER.
WHERE WE GONNA GO? ALL THE *GOOD* PLACES IN THE PROJECT ARE OFF-LIMITS.
AN' WE CAN'T GO INTA DA CITY WIT'OUT SOME SILLY CHAP'RONE...
YEAH...
YOU'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THAT *SOON*, TOM.
I KNOW.
THEY'RE *CLONES* OF YOU AND THE OTHER BOYS. THEY HAVE YOUR MEMORIES... YOUR *SPIRIT*.
YOU CAN'T KEEP THEM IN CADMUS *FOREVER*.
THERE'S TALK ABOUT SETTING UP A HALFWAY HOUSE THING IN METROPOLIS. WE'LL SEE.
BUT I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING *ELSE*.

WHEN YOU'RE BETTER, WE WANT YOU TO TAKE A UNIT INTO THE UNEXPLORED CAVERNS...

...FIND OUT WHAT'S DOWN THERE, WHAT'S BEEN RAIDING OUR SUPPLIES.

MORE OF DONOVAN'S MONSTERS, YOU THINK?

POSSIBLY. DABNEY DONOVAN LEFT US A LOT OF SURPRISES AFTER HE DIED.

YOU KNOW, JIM, IT'S ALMOST LIKE HE'S HAUNTING THIS PLACE...

"...AND WE'RE ALL TOUCHED BY HIS GHOST."

GROIK?

GROIK! GROIK! CHOMP! SNAP! KRAK! CRUNCH!

GROIK?

Tommy, Dabney & Me
My new (cloned) body!

YOU CAN'T EXPERIMENT ON *LIVING* SPECIMENS, DONOVAN! IT'S *INHUMANE*! IT STOPS *NOW*!

BUT LIVING TISSUE HAS A MORE *PLIABLE* GENETIC STRUCTURE! THEY'RE JUST *ANIMALS*...!

B

C

shut me down-- I'll show them! ...fake my own death ...move into the caverns...

FIGHT ALL YOU *WANT*, CHARLIE, BUT YOU'RE COMING WITH *ME*!

YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE MY *STARTER STOCK*!

HELLO, CHARLIE.

MY ANGRY CHARLIE.

YOU REMEMBER ARTIE AND BARNEY, DON'T YOU?

YOP? YEEP?

GRROIKK!!

SHINO, I THOUGHT WE COULD HYPOTHESIZE OUR CLONAL LOCATOR, *um*, PERHAPS OVER AN EVENING REPAST IN MY DOMICILE?

BIFTECH HACHÉ IS MY SPECIALTY.

BIP

AU FROMAGE, I HOPE, ANTHONY.

LET ME JUST PICK UP MY NOTES AND...

...AND...

I'LL BE SUPER-AMALGAMATED!

"... DONOVAN..."

"... DONOVAN LEFT US A LOT OF SURPRISES..."

"... DONOVAN'S MONSTERS..."

"... BIG AN' PINK AN' SUPER-STRONG AN'..."

"... YOU REMEMBER ARTIE AND..."

"... DONOVAN'S MONSTERS..."

"... HAUNTING THIS PLACE..."

"... TOUCHED BY HIS GHOST."

End

RED GLASS

PART TWO

FALLING APART

SAY "HELLO" TO YOUR *WORST ENEMY*, SUPERMAN!

AND I AIN'T TALKING ABOUT THE *KRYPTONITE!*

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~ SIEGEL & SHUSTER : *Creators of SUPERMAN* ~

JIMMY?! JIMMY, WHAT IS THIS?

WHY?!

FOR STARTERS...

YOU KILLED MY WIFE!

W-WIFE? BUT YOU'RE NOT--

NOT ANYMORE I'M NOT!

IT WASN'T ENOUGH THAT YOU CRIPPLED HER, WAS IT?!

YOU HAD TO BURN HER TO DEATH FOR *KICKS!**

WHAT-- *WHO* ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

MY WIFE-- *LOIS LANE!*

**LAST WEEK IN SUPERMAN #56!*

"WHEN LOIS FOUND OUT SHE WAS GOING TO SPEND HER REMAINING DAYS A PRISONER OF THE WHEELCHAIR YOU PUT HER IN--

"--SHE TURNED TO ME FOR COMFORT AND SUPPORT. WE FELL IN LOVE.

"THOSE WERE HAPPY DAYS FOR ME. THE HAPPIEST OF MY LIFE.

"SHE COULDN'T HAVE CHILDREN ANYMORE, BUT WE OFTEN TALKED ABOUT ADOPTING.

"ONLY ONE THING CAST A SHADOW ON OUR MARRIAGE...

"DESPITE ALL YOU DID TO HER, SHE *NEVER* STOPPED *LOVING YOU.*

"SHE WOULD OFTEN MAKE TRIPS TO THE DEAD VILLAINS MUSEUM--

"--HOPING THE CARNAGE INSIDE WOULD HELP HER TO GET OVER HER IRRATIONAL TIES TO YOU!"

AND THAT'S WHERE YOU FINISHED HER OFF!

RIGHT IN FRONT OF THAT MONUMENT TO YOUR SICKNESS!

WAS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE *IRONIC*, SUPERMAN?! *HUH?!*

JIMMY, STOP THIS! YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE!

SOMEBODY'S USING YOU TO GET AT ME!

WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT YOU'RE DESCRIBING... JUST HAPPENED A FEW MINUTES AGO... ACROSS TOWN!

HOW COULD YOU KNOW ABOUT IT AND HAVE... AMBUSHED ME SO QUICKLY?

THIS *MUST BE* AN ELABORATE ATTACK ON MY MIND... OR *YOUR* MIND... SOMETHING...

THEY WERE RIGHT! YOU REALLY HAVE GONE MAD!

HOW'S THIS KRYPTONITE FEELING, *PAL*? PRETTY PAINFUL, EH?

IT'S *NOTHING* COMPARED TO WHAT YOU DID TO LOIS AND ME!

IN A FEW MINUTES YOU'RE GOING TO BE DEAD, SUPERMAN! THINK ABOUT IT!

SO THIS IS HOW IT ENDS. I'M *ALMOST* SORRY IT HAD TO BE ME.

WE WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN FRIENDS, YOU KNOW!

HE'S NOBODY'S *FRIEND*, KID. HE *THINKS* HE'S GOD.

BUT *WE* GOT YOU, EH, SUPERMAN? TWO *REGULAR GUYS*...

LUTHOR AND OLSEN BEAT THE GREAT MAN OF STEEL!

AND YOU KNOW WHAT, SUPERMAN?

WHEN YOU'RE DEAD-- I'LL BE THE *FIRST IN LINE* TO SPIT ON YOUR GRAVE!

C-CAN'T SPEAK... TONGUE... WON'T MOVE...

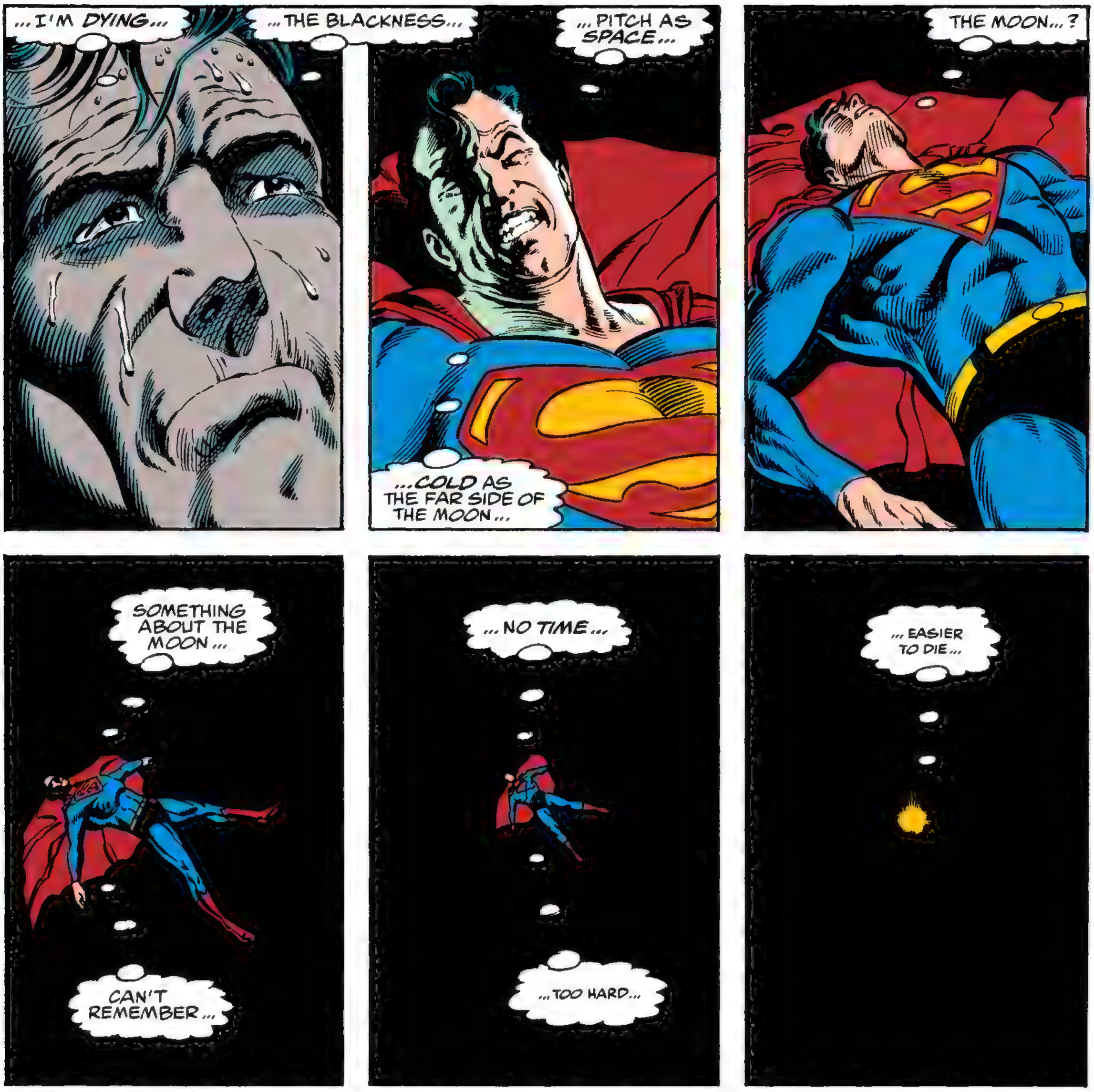
PLEASE... PLEASE HELP ME...

...I'VE D-DONE SO MUCH...

...I'VE HELPED YOU ALL...

...PLEASE... DO SOMETHING!

ELVIS BOUGHT ME A SKATEBOARD


...I'M DYING...
...THE BLACKNESS...
...PITCH AS SPACE...
...COLD AS THE FAR SIDE OF THE MOON...
THE MOON...?
SOMETHING ABOUT THE MOON...
CAN'T REMEMBER...
...NO TIME...
...TOO HARD...
...EASIER TO DIE...

FISHING FOR HIEROGLYPHIC GLASS.

LUNACY IS NOT PART OF THE RED SIDEWALK.

CANNIBAL TUESDAY IN HOUSTON --

-- CONTROL IS IMPORTANT TO COMMUNIST BREAK DANCING.

COMMIE.

COMMUNE.

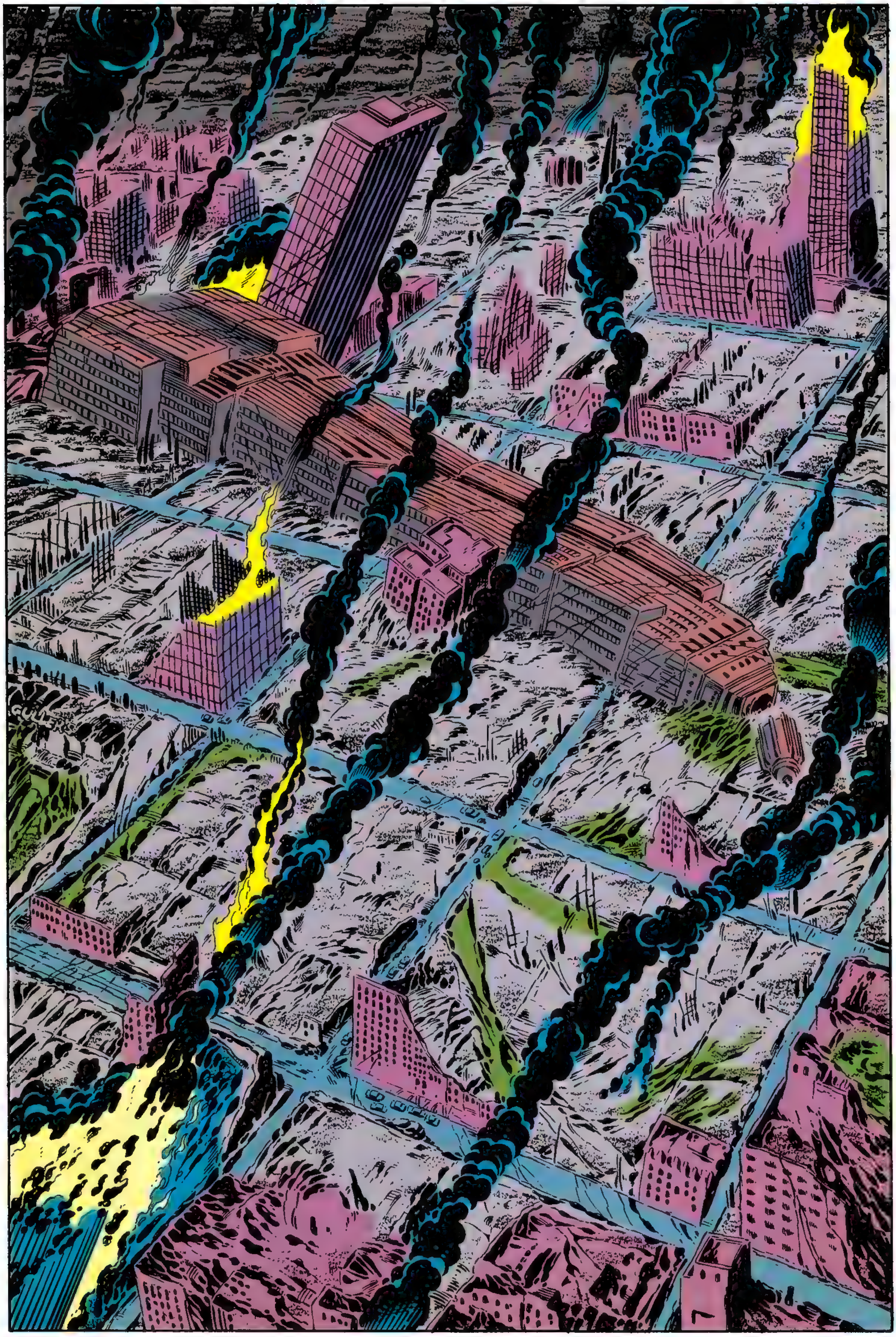
COMMUNICATE.

COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWN. SUPERMAN, PLEASE --

AAAAH!

NNN... WHAT...?

COMMUNICATION.



METROPOLIS...

...THIS CAN'T BE METROPOLIS...

...THIS ISN'T HAPPENING!

A MINUTE AGO... I WAS OK... EVERY-THING WAS OK...

THAT SOUND...?

SOMEONE'S ALIVE!

UHHHH...

OH...GOD...NO!

HOLD ON! I'LL GET YOU FREE!

BOOSTER!

BOOSTER GOLD!

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? TO *EVERYONE*?! CAN YOU TALK?

NNUUH... MUUH...

WHO DID THIS?! *TELL ME!*

M-MURDER... ;KOFF;...ER...

Y-YOU... M-MONSTERRR...

NO.

NOOOO!!

PLEASE, GOD...

...DON'T LET THIS BE ON MY HANDS...

ALL MY ADULT LIFE I'VE HAD TO LIVE WITH THE FEAR OF LOSING CONTROL.

ONE SIMPLE MISTAKE AND A MILLION LIVES WOULD BE SNUFFED OUT.

I'VE TRIED HARD TO BE *CAREFUL*... I'D NEVER TAKE ANOTHER LIFE.

PLEASE, GOD.

I JUST NEED A SIGN...

JUST SOME *PROOF* I DIDN'T DO THIS.

THERE...!

THERE'S SOMEONE THERE...!

A SURVIVOR!

I MEAN YOU NO HARM.

I JUST WANT TO ASK YOU SOME...

I'M SORRY.

IF I DIDN'T DO THIS, I'LL FIND YOUR KILLER...

IF I DID... I...

THERE HAS TO BE *SOMEONE* OUT THERE... *ANYONE*... *ANYWHERE!*

KLIK

--MAN, COME IN, PLEASE. THIS IS HOUSTON, DO YOU COPY?

HOUSTON TO SUPERMAN. COME IN, PLEASE.

THEY'RE OUT THERE... CALLING ME...

SUPERMAN! THANK GOD! WE WERE WORRIED ABOUT YOU!

WHAT... TALKING TO ME... WHO'S DOING THIS??

AUTO-RE

HUDAK

TER

THIS IS HOUSTON.

SUPERMAN, ARE YOU OKAY? YOU SOUND A LITTLE STRANGE.

HOUSTON? I DON'T KNOW ANYONE NAMED--

OKAY, J'ONN! HE'S ALL YOURS!

WHACHOO!

HURRY UP AND KILL HIM BEFORE HE GETS FREE!

I'D HATE TO HAVE TO HOG ALL THE GLORY MYSELF!

YOU MEAN YOU'RE *AFRAID* OF HIM LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.

IT'S OKAY, GUY. I UNDERSTAND.

I JUST WISH THERE COULD HAVE BEEN ANOTHER WAY, SUPERMAN--

--BUT THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.

KA-THOOOOM

GUY GARDNER... AND THE MARTIAN MAN-HUNTER.

THANK HEAVENS-- THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE'S* HERE! BUT I'M NOT THE ENEMY... *SOMEONE--*

HE DOESN'T SEEM TO REMEMBER.

DON'T LET HIM FOOL YOU! THAT'S HOW HE TRICKED BOOSTER INTO LETTING DOWN HIS GUARD!

FINE, THEN-- LET'S JUST WASTE HIM AND GET IT *OVER WITH!*

;NNNGGH! THIS SUCKER'S PRETTY STRONG! HE'S RESIST-ING--

LET HIM GO! HE'S TOO POWERFUL FOR YOU!

WRONG! I'M GUY GARDNER! A GREEN FRIGGIN' LANTERN! I CAN TAKE THIS CLOWN!

LET HIM GO! I CAN DEAL WITH HIM!

N-NO! I-I...

GAHH!

GUY!

KRAKOOM

BY THE MOONS! HE KILLED ANOTHER ONE!

I'M TIRED, J'ONZZ--OR WHOEVER YOU ARE--

GUY, ARE YOU...?

--TIRED OF ASKING QUESTIONS!

KRAKK

UHHHN... NO. W-WAIT...

NOW I'M TELLING YOU--

--I WANT ANSWERS--

WAKOOM

--AND I WANT THEM NOW!

WHO PUT YOU UP TO THIS?!

YOU CAN'T MAKE ME THINK I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY OF THIS WITH-OUT PROOF!

TRAPPED... MOON...

RED... :KOFF:...

RED GLASSSs...:

WHAT? YOU'RE NOT MAKING SENSE... NONE OF THIS MAKES ANY SENSE!

J'ONN...?

I DIDN'T MEAN TO HIT YOU SO HARD. WAKE UP.

PLEASE, J'ONN...

J'ONN!!

I DIDN'T MEAN TO...

OH, GOD... IT'S TRUE. I'VE REALLY DONE IT.

I'VE DONE ALL OF THIS! THEY TRIED TO BREAK ME--

--AND I SNAPPED! THEY DROVE ME CRAZY... AND I...I...

SUPERMAN--

...THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH!

EH+ WB 91

TO BE CONTINUED in ACTION COMICS #666!

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~ SIEGEL & SHUSTER : Creators of SUPERMAN ~

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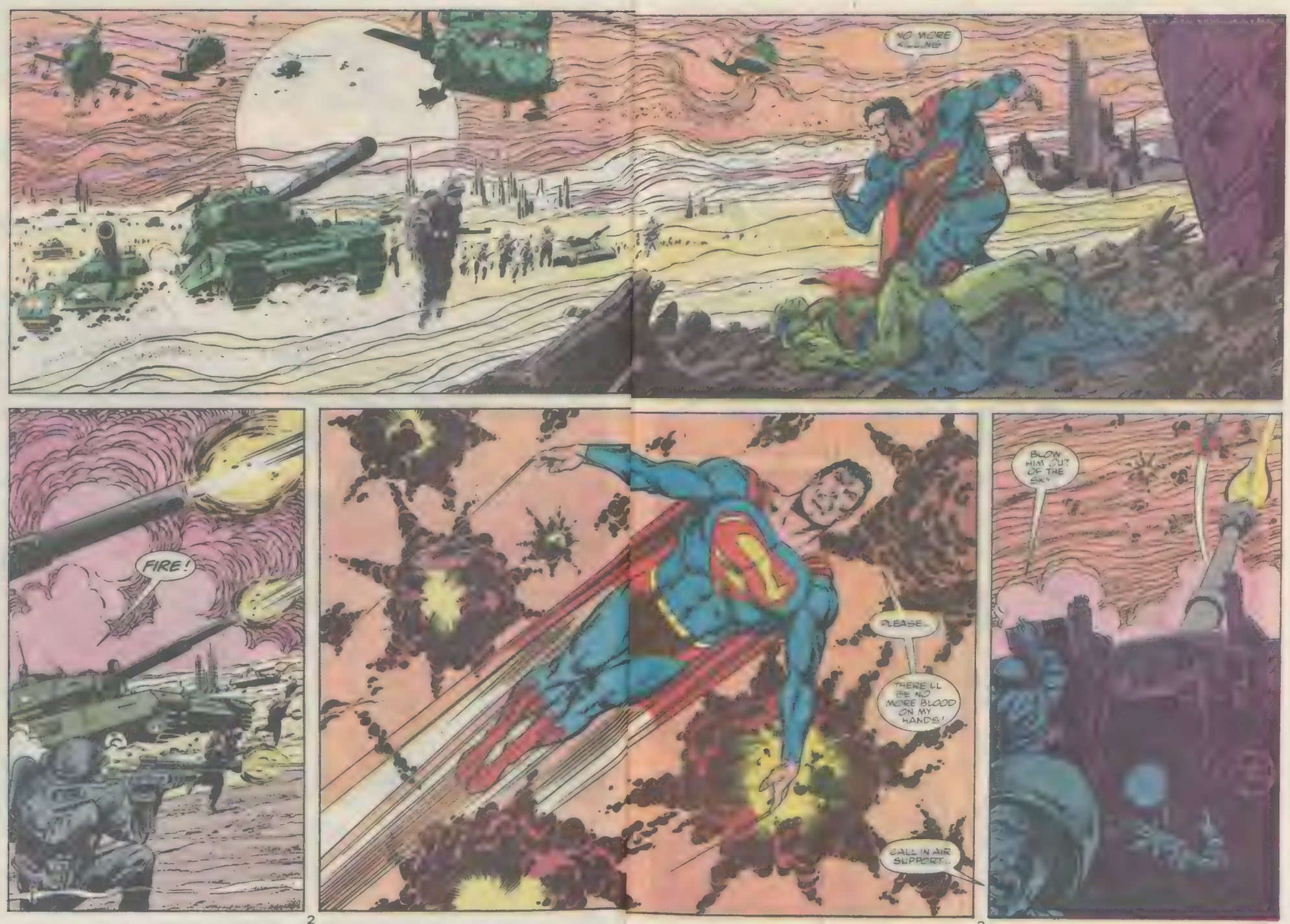

NO MORE KILLING
FIRE!
PLEASE...
THERE'LL BE NO MORE BLOOD ON MY HANDS!
CALL IN AIR SUPPORT...
BLOW HIM OUT OF THE SKY

NEED TO GET AWAY. SOME-PLACE QUIET
BEFORE THEY PUSH ME TOO FAR!
MISSILES LOCKED ON TARGET! KILL ORDER AFFIRMATIVE!
LAUNCH!
CHOOOM

:UHHHH I'M--I ?!
FALLING--!
EVERYTHING'S SPINNING--
--GOT TO PULL OUT!
CHFFF
CHFFFFF
COME ON! GOT TO-- :UNNNF!:

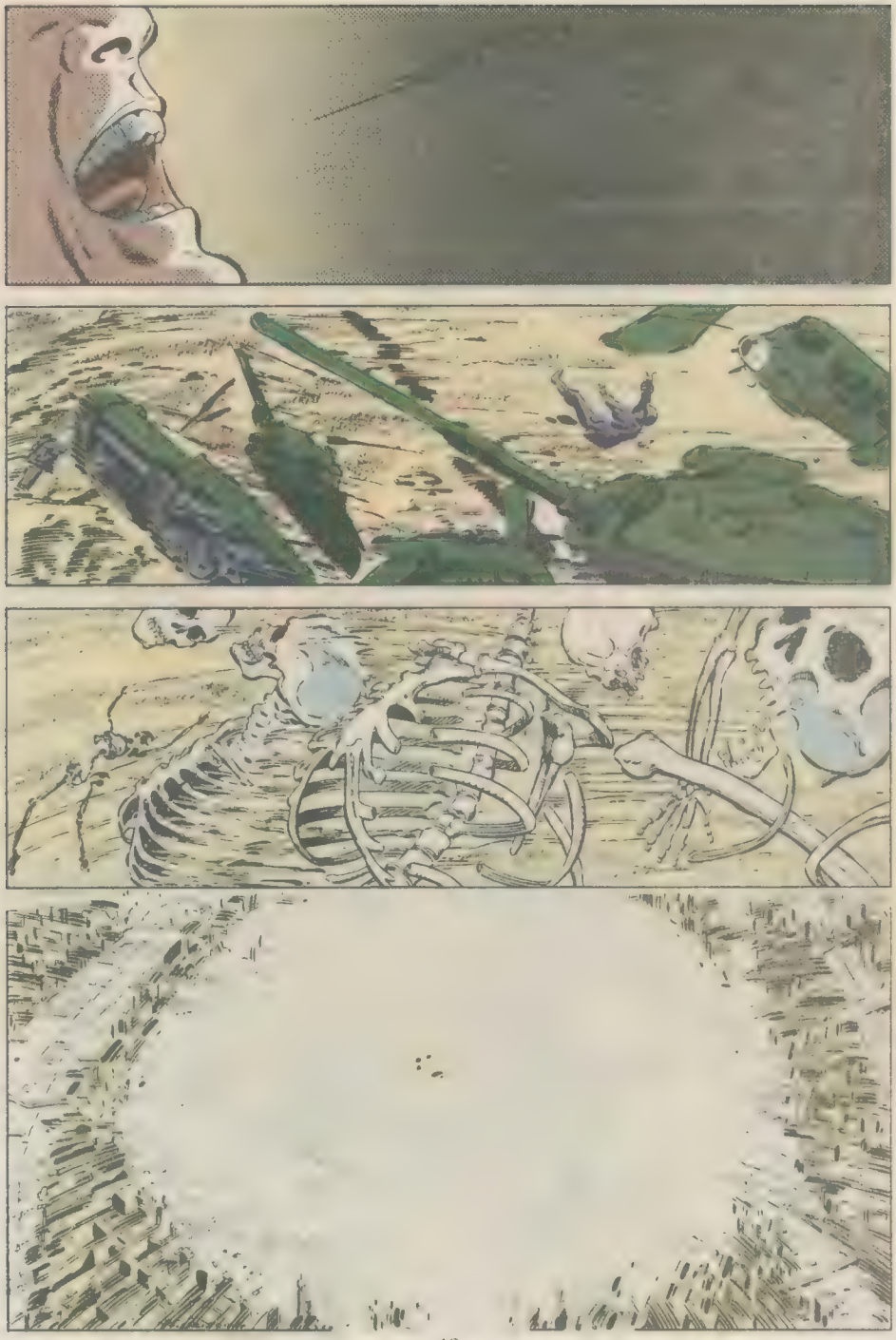
ALIVE!
HA HA HA-- THEY COULDN'T KILL ME!
DON'T COUNT ON THAT, SUPERMAN--
--'CAUSE THEY'VE JUST STARTED CALLING IN THE BIG GUNS!
SORRY SUPERMAN--
--BUT YOU FORCED US ALL TO TURN UP THE HEAT!

LOOKS LIKE WE CUT HIM DOWN, FIRESTORM!
GOOD, CAPTAIN ATOM! THE SUN AND MOON HAVE BOTH BEEN MOLTEN!
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO TRACE OF A BODY!
DISINTEGRATED! WITH THE COMBINED FORCE OF BOTH OUR ATOMIC POWERS--
--THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD HAVE--
AHHH!
FIRESTORM!

FIREST--?
SSSSHHHH
SHOOM
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS MADNESS!
YAAH!!
KA-
FOOM

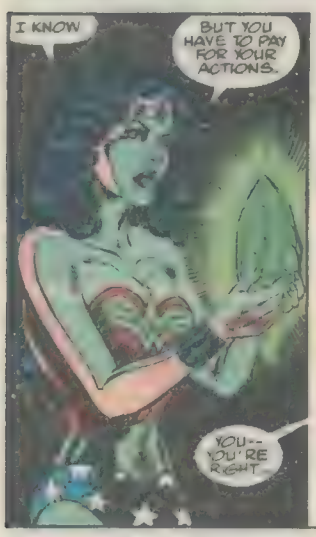
AHH HA HA HA HA!
WHO'S KILLED WHO, EH, BIG GUNS?!
WHO'S GOING TO KILL ME NOW-- OWW--
--AAOOOWW?!?
THANKS REBIS
I SMELL BURNING MEAT
AND IT MAKES ME HUNNNGRRY!!

I CAN'T...
I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE!
WHY CAN'T YOU ALL JUST GO AWAY?!
AAAAAH!

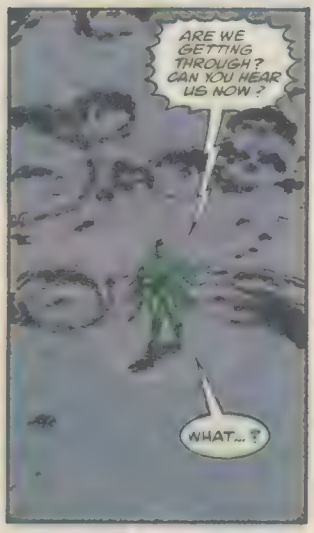


THEY'RE GONE! I...I KILLED THEM ALL!
AH HEH HEH HEH
LIKE I KILLED THOSE MUGGERS THIS MORNING...
OH GOD... I DESTROYED METROPOLIS! MILLIONS OF LIVES! MILLIONS!
ALL THAT I'VE FOUGHT FOR... ALL THAT I'VE BELIEVED IN... EVERYTHING MY PARENTS TAUGHT ME...
I'VE BETRAYED IT!
THAT'S RIGHT, SUPERMAN--
--AND NOW IT'S TIME TO PAY FOR IT.
WONDER WOMAN...I--
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY HERE, EXCEPT...
I'M SORRY
IT'S TOO LATE FOR SORRY
YOU SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THE CONSEQUENCES BEFORE YOU STARTED.

I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER ME.
ONE MINUTE I WAS FLYING OVER METROPOLIS, THEN I FIND MYSELF KILLING PEOPLE!
I JUST LOST CONTROL
MY GREATEST FEAR
HAVING SUPER-HUMAN ABILITIES DOESN'T MAKE LIFE EASIER. IT MAKES IT HARDER.
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN AFRAID I'LL...


I KNOW
BUT YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR YOUR ACTIONS.
YOU-- YOU'RE RIGHT-

...I MUST PUT AN END TO THIS NIGHTMARE ONCE AND FOR ALL.
I'M GLAD WE'RE COMMUNICATING.


ARE WE GETTING THROUGH? CAN YOU HEAR US NOW?
WHAT...?

THIS IS NASA, SUPERMAN. HOUSTON CONTROL. WE LOST YOU THERE FOR A MINUTE.
NASA?
...YES, ARE YOU OKAY? YOU'VE STOPPED TRANSMITTING SEVERAL TIMES IN THE LAST HOUR.

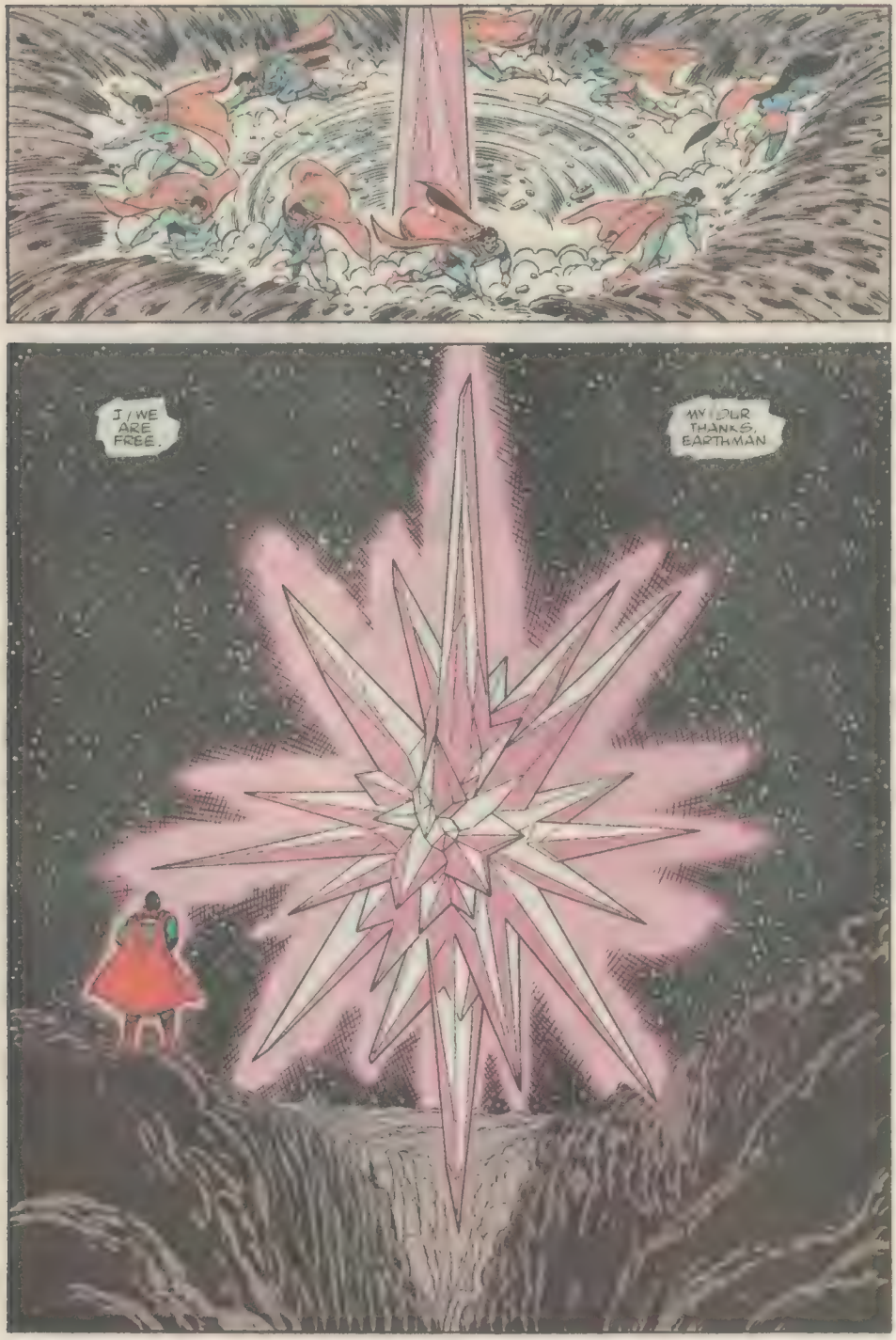
WE SENT YOU TO THE--
NASA

--MOON. THERE'S SOME KIND OF RADIO-ACTIVE ANOMALY WE'VE BEEN PICKING UP IN MARE NUBIUM. THE SEA OF CLOUDS.
NASA
I'D LIKE YOU TO GO ... AND FIND WHAT IT IS.
I-- I REMEMBER NOW!
I JAMMED OUT OF ORBIT UNEXPECTEDLY. THEN CRASHED. I WAS A MILE FROM THE PLANS ... I WAS--
DID YOU FIND OUT WHAT'S BEEN CAUSING THE UNUSUAL ACTIVITY? WE'VE PICKED UP A MAJOR DISTURBANCE IN YOUR VICINITY.
THERE'S A NEW CRATER NEAR YOUR TRANS-MISSION POINT.
DID YOU MAKE IT?
THERE'S... UH... SOMETHING DOWN THERE... SOME KIND OF RED CRYSTAL.
IS THAT WHAT IS BEEN MESSING WITH MY HEAD--
-- MAKING ME CRAZY OVER MY OWN ANXIETIES?
CRAZY? WE... UH, DON'T UNDERSTAND
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, CRAZY?
SUPERMAN!

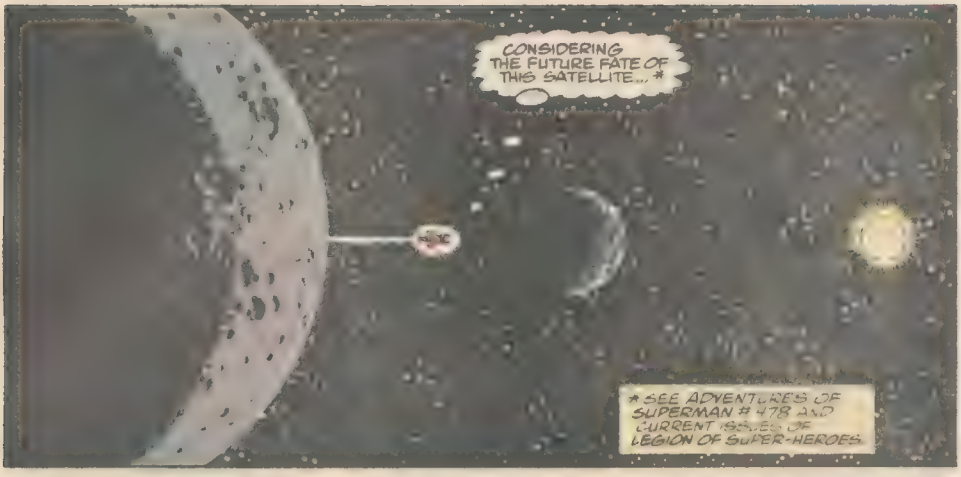
WE'VE LOST HIM AGAIN
WHAT—
ARE
...YOU?
UHHHH...
AT LAST. MY/OUR CALL IS ANSWERED.
I/WE CAME TO THIS SYSTEM LOOKING FOR SUITABLE PLANETS. FOUND NONE.

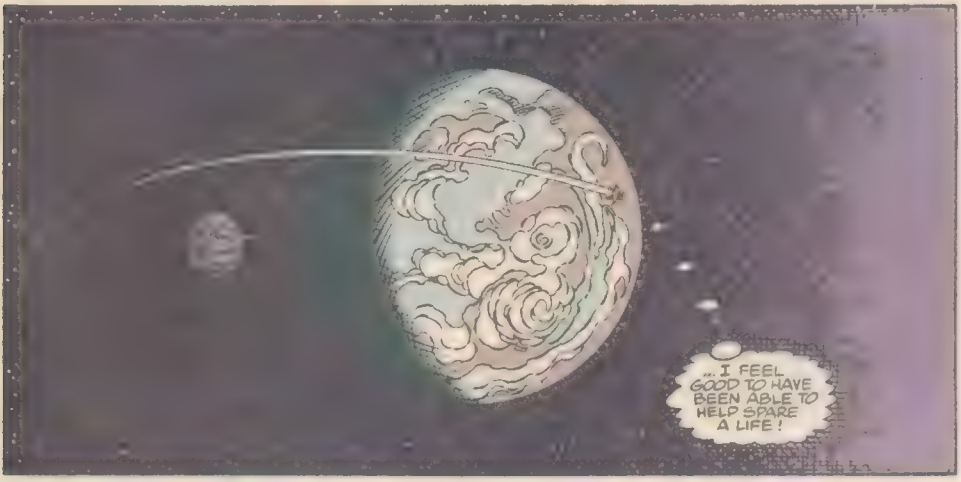
THIRD PLANET INHABITED BY DESTRUCTIVE CARBON-BASED LIFE FORMS.
ABSOLUTELY UNSUITABLE FOR RAISING MY/OUR CHILDREN
SEVERE SOLAR ACTIVITY PREVENTED IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE. SHUT DOWN FOR SEVERAL CYCLES
UNFORTUNATELY WERE LURED INTO ORBIT BY A MOTELIX
WHILE OUR PROTECTIVE FORCEFIELD PREVENTED PERMANENT DAMAGE, BUT THE COLLISION DROVE ME/US TO IMPACT WITH YOUR MOON.
BECAUSE OF BURNING I WE CRASHED INTO THE LUNAR SURFACE AND BECAME MORE DEEPLY BURIED

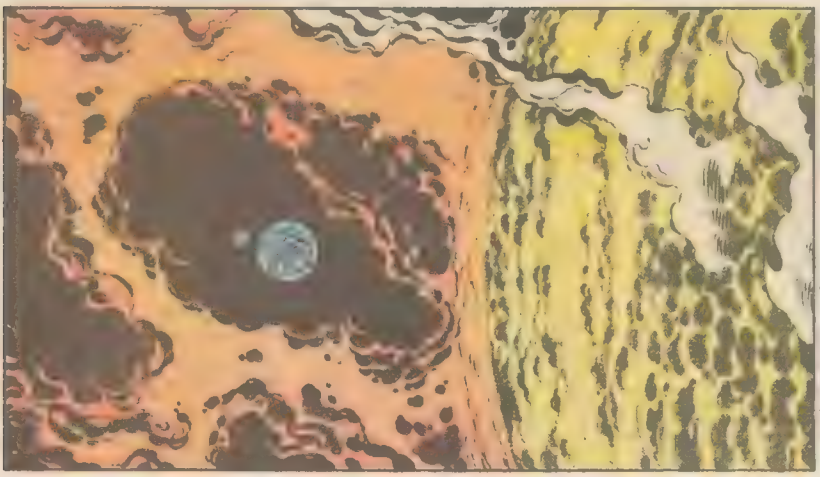
TRAPPED, I/WE WERE, FOR MANY AN AGE
SENT DISTRESS SIGNALS ACROSS THE RADIATION BANDS, BUT NO ONE CAME. NOT FOR MANY, MANY CYCLES.
AND THEN, MIRACULOUSLY, YOU ARRIVED STRANGE ONE
TRIED TO COMMUNICATE, BUT DID NOT UNDERSTAND YOUR MIND.
THINK I/WE MAY HAVE "SAID" WRONG THINGS...
YOU LEFT ME/US... BUT CAME BACK... HOUSTON SENT YOU..
...ONLY YOU WENT BERSERK AND STARTED TEARING UP LUNAR SURFACE.
REALIZED MY/OUR "LANGUAGE" WAS CONTACTING YOUR SUB-CONSCIOUS AND PRIMITIVE MIND.
I/WE SAW IMAGES IN YOUR HEAD OF GREAT VIOLENCE TOWARD OTHER STRANGE BEINGS.
I/WE MEANT NO HARM. MERELY TRIED TO SIGNAL POSITION AND PREDICAMENT
...AND ALL YOU WANTED WAS TO BE FREE.
CORRECT. AFRAID I/WE DO NOT "SPEAK" EARTH WELL.
PLEASE HELP ME/US.
I/WE CANNOT BEAR OUR CHILDREN HERE.
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN


I / WE ARE FREE.
MY / OUR THANKS, EARTHMAN

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'S BEEN FREED, MY FRIEND
YOU HELPED ME FACE THE DARKNESS IN THE CORNERS OF MY MIND ...AND RENEWED MY ABILITY TO OVERCOME IT.
YOU HAVE GIVEN ME THE POWER TO SURVIVE THE BAD AS WELL AS THE GOOD.


CONSIDERING THE FUTURE FATE OF THIS SATELLITE...*
*SEE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #478 AND CURRENT ISSUES OF LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES





THE LAST SUN OF KRYPTON LOOMS ONCE MORE... NEXT WEEK IN SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL #1!

THAT'S RIGHT... A NEW TITLE AND A WEEKLY DOSE OF SUPERMAN ACTION AND ADVENTURE COMES YOUR WAY STARTING NOW! (WHO NEEDS DALLAS AND TWIN PEAKS WHEN YOU CAN BE HERE EACH AND EVERY WEEK?!)

ZAZZT!
HE'S KNOWN BY MANY NAMES.
TO SOME, HE'S THE "MAN OF STEEL".
OTHERS HAVE DUBBED HIM THE "MAN OF TOMORROW" AND THE "LAST SON OF KRYPTON."
BUT THE NAME FIRST GIVEN HIM BY THE MEDIA REMAINS THE MOST DESCRIPTIVE. SIMPLY PUT--
ZAP OW!
--HE IS SUPERMAN

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OKAY, GUYS, HERE'S HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS.

WHEN A JUDGE SENTENCES YOU TO STRYKER'S ISLAND PRISON YOU *STAY* THERE UNTIL YOUR TERM EXPIRES.

THAT MEANS PRISON BREAKS ARE *OUT* OF THE QUESTION

CLAP

YEEEOW! I KNEW THIS WASN'T GONNA WORK!

OH GODOM! GODOMIGOD!

I RECOGNIZE YOU ALL AS EX-*INTERGANG* THUGS.

I'D PROBABLY BE DOING THE WARDEN A FAVOR IF I LET THE LOT OF YOU GO SWIMMING WITH THE SHARKS.

YOU GOTTA SAVE US, MAN! YOU *GOTTA!*

YOU *CAN'T* LET US DIE. YOU'RE *SUPERMAN!*

EXECUTION 2001

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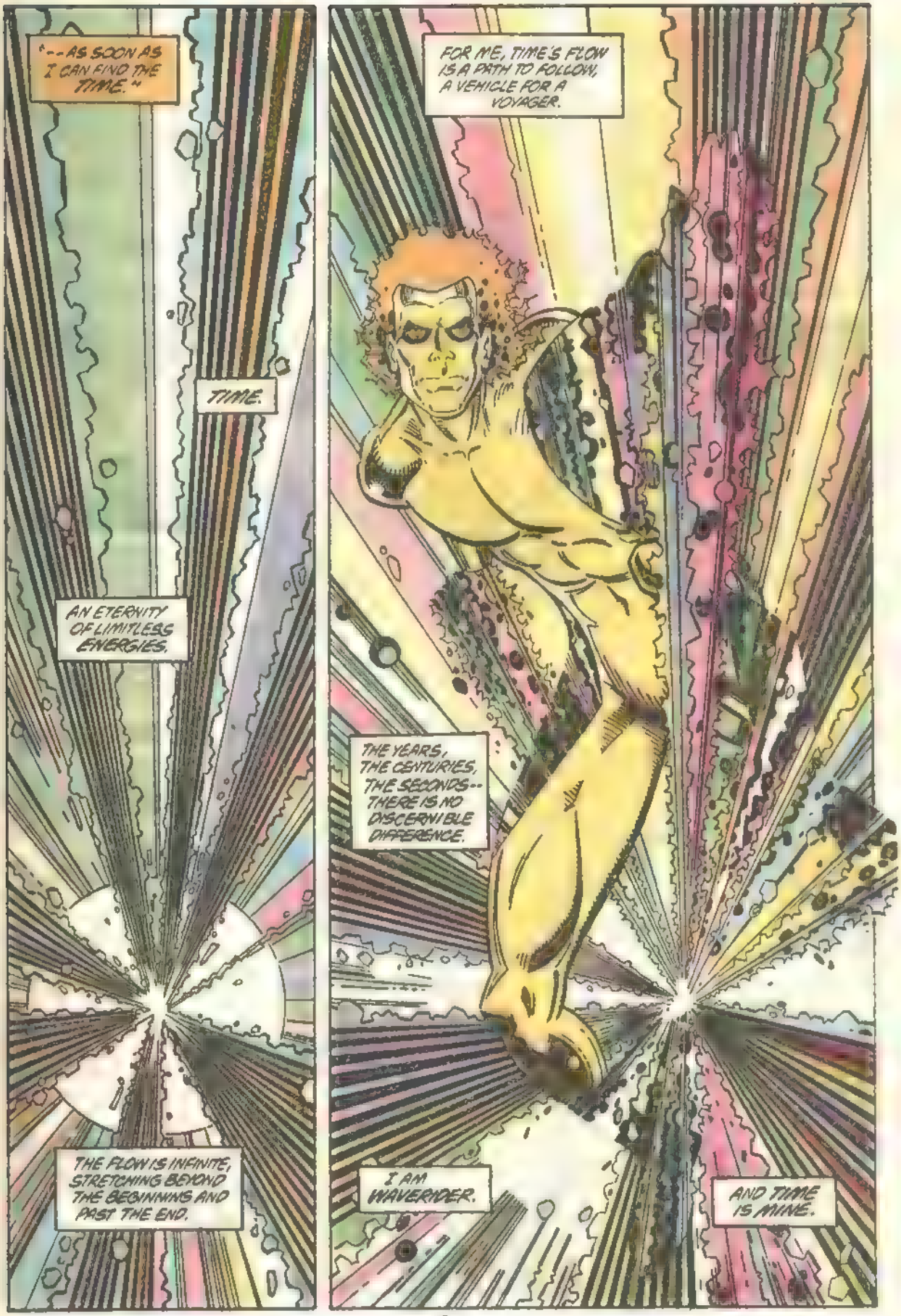
SUPERMAN®

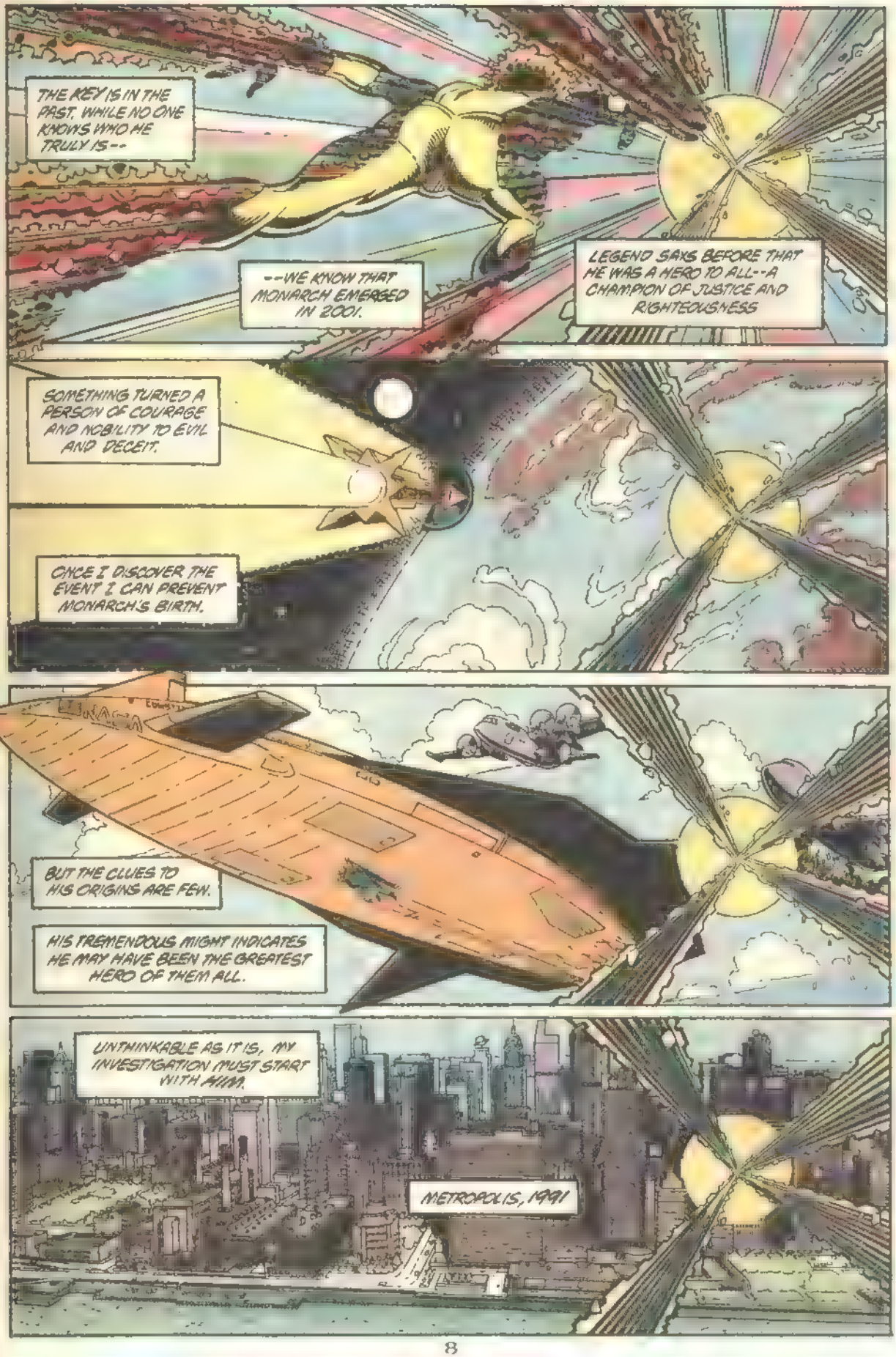
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

SNAG
Y'KNOW, WHEN THE WHOLE WORLD HAS YOU PEGGED AS A GOOD GUY IT CAN BE A REAL PAIN SOMETIMES.
WHAT ABOUT THOSE OTHERS, SUPERMAN?
NO SWEAT A BLAST OF SUPER-BREATH WILL CUSHION THE FALL FOR THESE TWO--
WOOO-EEE! THAT'S SWEET!
--WHILE THESE TWO GET A PERSONAL ESCORT!
YOU AIN'T STOPPED US YET! WHEN OUR SUPPORT SHIP GETS HERE WE'LL--
SHADDUP, YA MORON! WHY DON TCHA TELL 'IM EVERYTHING!
SUPPORT SHIP? IF THEY HAVE BACK-UP WE COULD BE IN FOR BIG TROUBLE!
NOT IF I FIND IT FIRST
I'LL SCAN THE SKIES WITH MY TELESCOPIC VISION UNTIL--
--BINGO.
THEY'VE OBVIOUSLY BEEN MONITORING EVENTS HERE, BECAUSE THEY'RE RUNNING HARD AND FAST!
BROTHERS

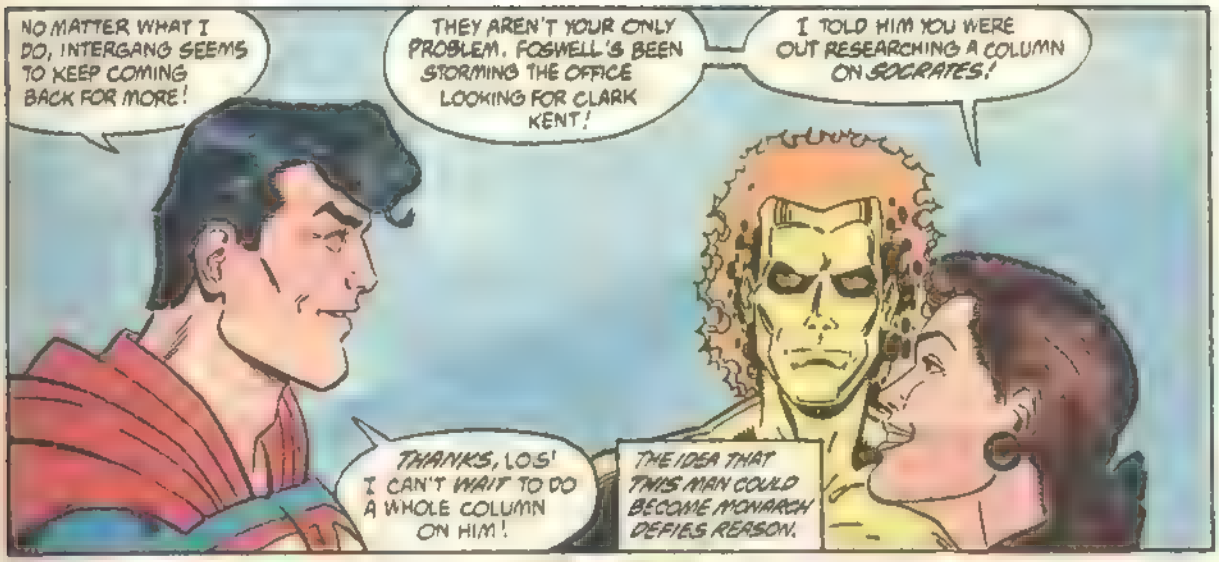
FORTUNATELY, I CAN RUN HARDER AND FASTER
THOSE IDIOTS! INTERGANG SMUGGLED THOSE FLOATING DISCS INTO PRISON TO MAKE FOR AN EASY ESCAPE--
--AND THEY STILL GOT NABBED BREAKING OUT!
WHEN MANNHEIM HEARS ABOUT THIS HE'S GONNA-- HEY! WHAT'S THAT?
THE LEFT FLAP IS VIBRATING-- FIGHTING ME ALL THE WAY!
WE JUST LOST ALL POWER IN ENGINES ONE AND TWO!
I'M LOSING IT! PREPARE TO EJECT!
HOLD IT! ALL OF A SUDDEN WE'RE EVENED OUT AGAIN!
YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHY EITHER! TAKE A LOOK AT OUR REAR SCREENS!
FORGET IT! THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOIN FACE TO FACE WITH HIM AT THIS HEIGHT!
THINK WE SHOULD STILL EJECT?
THANKS, SUPERMAN! WE'LL INTERROGATE THESE GUYS TO SEE WHAT WE CAN LEARN ABOUT INTERGANG!
THEIR MEN HAVE A REPUTATION FOR NOT TALKING, CAPTAIN. GOOD LUCK!
STILL, INTERGANG IS A CONSTANT THREAT THAT I SHOULD THINK ABOUT ELIMINATING--
WITH MY ABILITIES I COULD PROBABLY SCARE INFORMATION OUT OF THEM IN SECONDS. BUT I'M NOT BATMAN--I CAN'T WORK OUTSIDE THE LAW!

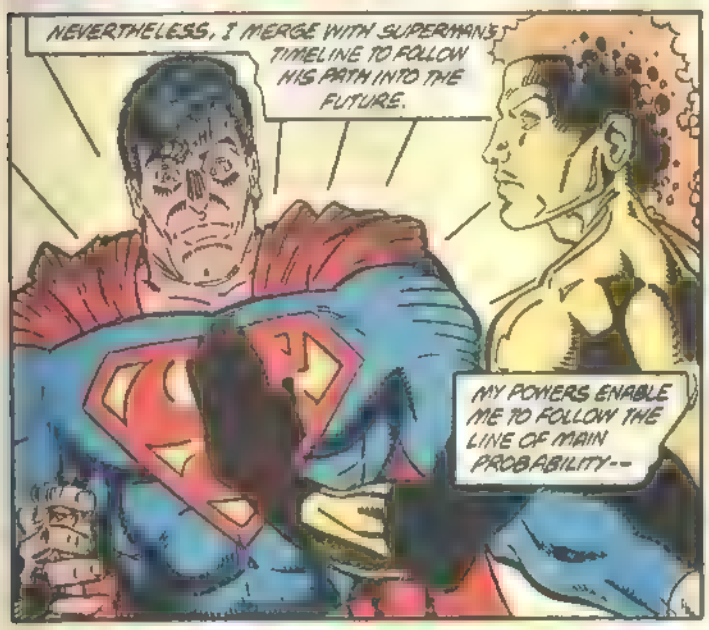

"--AS SOON AS I CAN FIND THE TIME."
TIME.
AN ETERNITY OF LIMITLESS ENERGIES.
THE FLOW IS INFINITE, STRETCHING BEYOND THE BEGINNING AND PAST THE END.
FOR ME, TIME'S FLOW IS A PATH TO FOLLOW, A VEHICLE FOR A VOYAGER.
THE YEARS, THE CENTURIES, THE SECONDS--THERE IS NO DISCERNIBLE DIFFERENCE.
I AM WAVERIDER.
AND TIME IS MINE.

IN MY TIME--
--THE FUTURE... MY PAST... AS MATTHEW RYDER--
--THERE IS A BEING WHOSE SHADOW BLACKENS ALL THAT IS GOOD.
MONARCH.
FDOOM!
HE RULES AN ENTIRE WORLD WITH A SAVAGE DETERMINATION AND POWER THAT DESTROYS OPPOSITION.
HIS COLD, EFFICIENT SOCIETIES EXIST IN A MARCH OF GLOBAL SYNCHRONIZATION THAT LEAVES LITTLE ROOM FOR INDIVIDUALISM.
ALL SPIRIT, ALL SENSE OF LIVING IS GONE.
TO BE UNIQUE IS TO DEFY MONARCH.
CHALLENGE IS MET WITH FORCE ALTERNATIVE IDEAS AND THOUGHT ARE SMOTHERED BY MONARCH'S DREADED ARMY OF PEACE-MAKERS.
IT'S A WORLD THAT MUST BE CHANGED.
MONARCH MUST NEVER EXIST.

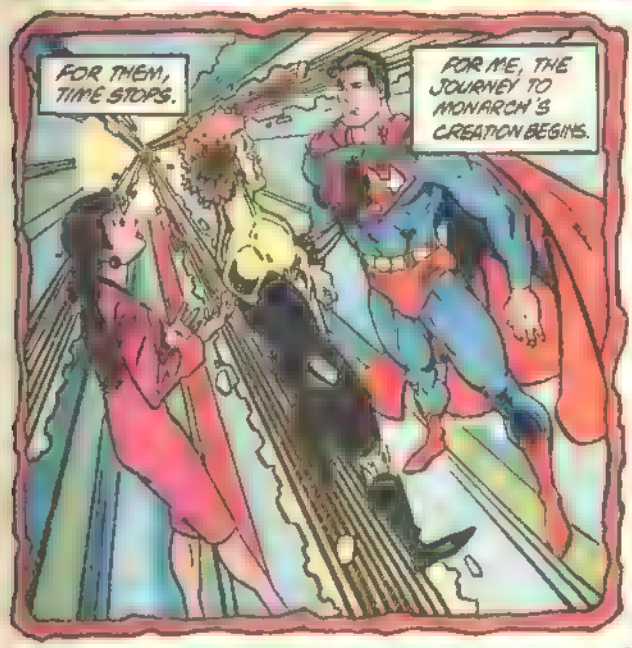

THE KEY IS IN THE PAST. WHILE NO ONE KNOWS WHO HE TRULY IS--
--WE KNOW THAT MONARCH EMERGED IN 2001.
LEGEND SAYS BEFORE THAT HE WAS A HERO TO ALL--A CHAMPION OF JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS
SOMETHING TURNED A PERSON OF COURAGE AND NOBILITY TO EVIL AND DECEIT.
ONCE I DISCOVER THE EVENT I CAN PREVENT MONARCH'S BIRTH.
BUT THE CLUES TO HIS ORIGINS ARE FEW.
HIS TREMENDOUS MIGHT INDICATES HE MAY HAVE BEEN THE GREATEST HERO OF THEM ALL.
UNTHINKABLE AS IT IS, MY INVESTIGATION MUST START WITH HIM.
METROPOLIS, 1991

IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE THAT SUPERMAN COULD EVER BECOME MONARCH.
YET MONARCH ASCENDED TO POWER BY DEFEATING--KILLING ALL EARTH'S HEROES IN 2001.
IF IT WASN'T SUPERMAN, WHO ELSE COULD IT BE?
WHO ELSE IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO REMOVE SUCH FORMIDABLE FOES?
MY STUDIES OF THE PAST INDICATED THAT SUPERMAN WAS OFTEN LINKED TO THIS BUILDING.
NOW, IN THIS FORM OF ELECTROMAGNETIC ENERGY--
--I AM INVISIBLE TO ALL.
THIS WOMAN--SHE'S IMPORTANT TO SUPERMAN
IS SHE IMPORTANT TO MONARCH AS WELL?
SOUNDS LIKE SUPERMAN DID IT AGAIN!
WHO KNOWS WHAT HAVOC THOSE INTERGANG MEMBERS MIGHT HAVE CAUSED HAD THEY ESCAPED?
WELCOME BACK, SUPERWARDEN!
LOIS, I TAKE IT YOU HEARD.
INCREDIBLE.


NO MATTER WHAT I DO, INTERGANG SEEMS TO KEEP COMING BACK FOR MORE!
THEY AREN'T YOUR ONLY PROBLEM. FOSWELL'S BEEN STORMING THE OFFICE LOOKING FOR CLARK KENT!
I TOLD HIM YOU WERE OUT RESEARCHING A COLUMN ON SOCRATES!
THANKS, LOIS! I CAN'T WAIT TO DO A WHOLE COLUMN ON HIM!
THE IDEA THAT THIS MAN COULD BECOME MONARCH DEFIES REASON.


NEVERTHELESS, I MERGE WITH SUPERMAN'S TIMELINE TO FOLLOW HIS PATH INTO THE FUTURE.
MY POWERS ENABLE ME TO FOLLOW THE LINE OF MAIN PROBABILITY--

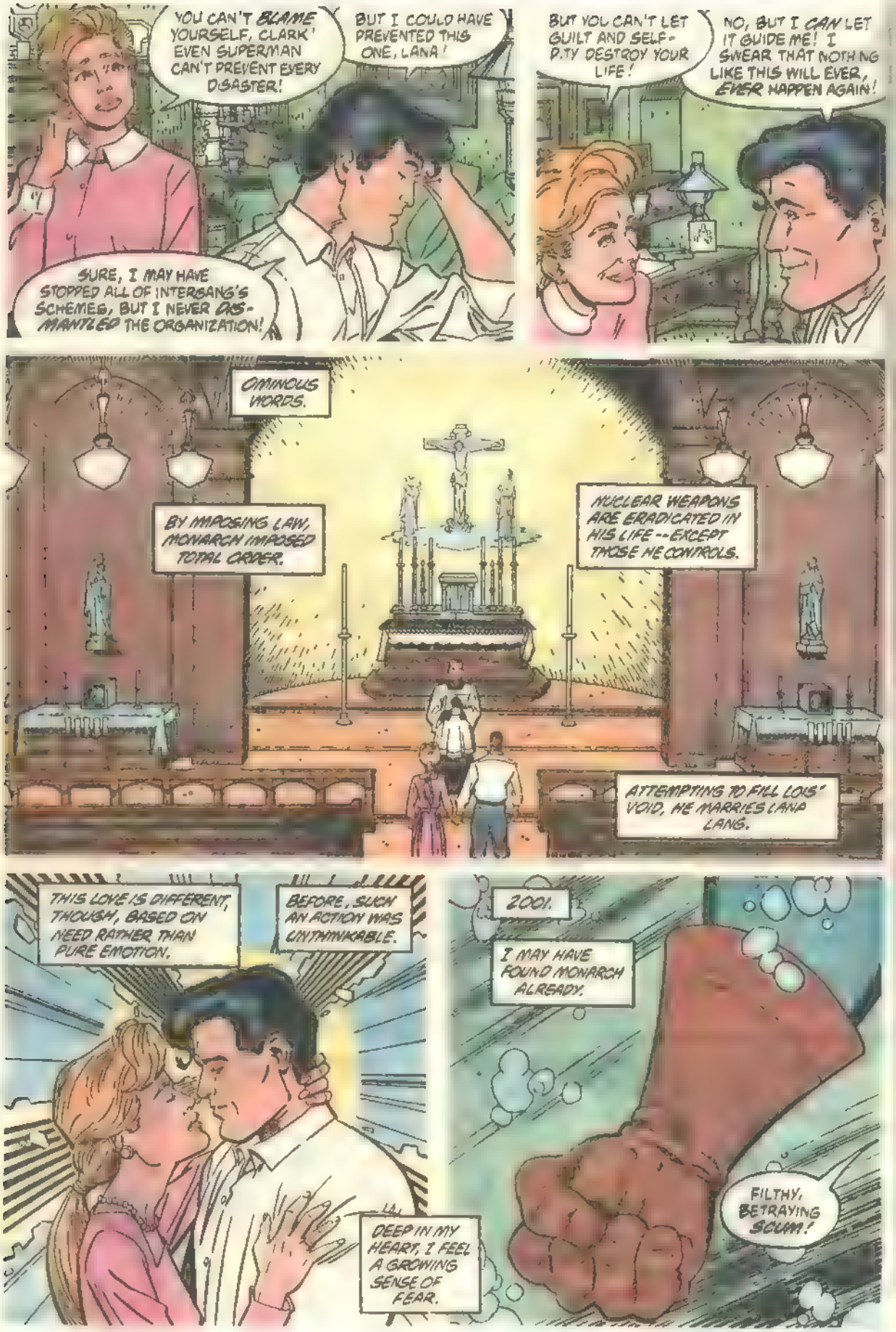
--TO SEE THE FUTURE MOST LIKELY GIVEN THE EVENTS OF THIS PARTICULAR MOMENT.
CLARK? IS EVERYTH--


FOR THEM, TIME STOPS.
FOR ME, THE JOURNEY TO MONARCH'S CREATION BEGINS.

FUTURE EVENTS OF SUPERMAN'S LIFE BEGIN TO FLASH SEQUENTIALLY BEFORE ME.
A YEAR FROM NOW I WATCH HIM FOIL AN ALIEN'S BIZARRE SCHEME OF DOMINATION.

A WEDDING? NO WONDER THIS WOMAN IS SO IMPORTANT TO HIM
SUPERMAN HAD ALWAYS SEEMED SO ALONE ON THIS WORLD--SO SEPARATE FROM HUMANS THAT I'D THOUGHT AN EVENT LIKE THIS IMPOSSIBLE.
THEIR LOVE IS DEEPLY EMOTIONAL -- A RARITY TO BE TREASURED.
JIMMY IF YOU'RE DESTINED TO ONLY TAKE ONE GREAT PICTURE IN YOUR LIFE--
--THIS HAD BETTER BE THE ONE!
EASY, LOIS! JIMMY KNOWS HIS STUFF!
ALL TOGETHER EVERYBODY! CHEEEEEEZE!
LOVE. FRIENDSHIP. JOY. THIS IS NOT THE LIFE OF A DESPOT

BUT THERE ARE TUMULTUOUS EVENTS IN ALL OUR LIVES.
EASY DOES IT, BOYS! INTERGANG IS GOING TO USE THAT NUCLEAR DEVICE TO BLACKMAIL METROPOLIS INTO TOTAL SUBMISSION!
WHATEVER YOU SAY, MANNHEIM!
IT WAS NEVER MEANT TO DETONATE--
--YET IT DOES.
IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE A BRILLIANT CITY IS TURNED TO ASH.
MILLIONS DIE.
ALL WHO ARE CLOSE TO HIM--PERRY WHITE, JIMMY OLSEN, CATHERINE GRANT--EVEN LOIS LANE DISAPPEAR FROM HIS LIFE.
THE HORRORS OF AN INSTANT--
--CHANGE A GOOD MAN FOREVER.


YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF, CLARK! EVEN SUPERMAN CAN'T PREVENT EVERY DISASTER!
BUT I COULD HAVE PREVENTED THIS ONE, LANA!
SURE, I MAY HAVE STOPPED ALL OF INTERGANG'S SCHEMES, BUT I NEVER DISMANTLED THE ORGANIZATION!
BUT YOU CAN'T LET GUILT AND SELF-PITY DESTROY YOUR LIFE!
NO, BUT I CAN LET IT GUIDE ME! I SWEAR THAT NOTHING LIKE THIS WILL EVER, EVER HAPPEN AGAIN!
OMINOUS WORDS.
BY IMPOSING LAW, MONARCH IMPOSED TOTAL ORDER.
NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE ERADICATED IN HIS LIFE--EXCEPT THOSE HE CONTROLS.
ATTEMPTING TO FILL LOIS' VOID, HE MARRIES LANA LANG.
THIS LOVE IS DIFFERENT, THOUGH, BASED ON NEED RATHER THAN PURE EMOTION.
BEFORE, SUCH AN ACTION WAS UNTHINKABLE.
DEEP IN MY HEART, I FEEL A GROWING SENSE OF FEAR.
2001.
I MAY HAVE FOUND MONARCH ALREADY.
FILTHY, BETRAYING SCUM!

YOUR WEAPONS FOR MASS DEATH AND DESTRUCTION ARE *FORBIDDEN!*

THOSE WHO VIOLATE THE *LAWS OF SUPERMAN*--

-- MUST PAY THE PRICE!

AND IF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONTINUES ITS SECRET RE-ARMING PROGRAM--

--THE PRICE YOU PAY WILL RUN HIGHER THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE!

WSHCRACK

WHOOSH-DOOOM

SHOCK WAVES! OUR HULL WILL POP LIKE AN EGG SHELL!

THEN WE HAVE NO CHOICE!

BLOW BALLAST! LET'S TAKE HER UP!

I DON'T CARE WHO THAT CLOWN IS--

--NO ONE ORDERS THIS BOAT OUT OF THE WATER BUT *ME!*

ALL STATIONS SECURE! SURFACE WATER CLEARED! BLOW HATCH!

I SAIL UNDER ORDERS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, MISTER!

WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK *YOU* ARE TO CHALLENGE THAT?

GET YOUR MEN OFF THAT SUBMARINE, CAPTAIN.

IT IS GOING *DOWN.*

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YOUR SUBMARINE'S NUCLEAR MISSILES COULD KILL MILLIONS.
AND THAT I WILL NOT ALLOW!
SSSS
GABLOOSH
I'LL SEND THE COAST GUARD FOR YOU AND YOUR MEN, CAPTAIN. I BEAR NO MALICE TOWARDS ANY OF YOU.
TAKE A COUNT, PEOPLE! LET'S MAKE SURE EVERY-BODY GOT OUT!
I'VE SCANNED EVERY COMPARTMENT WITH MY X-RAY VISION.
REST ASSURED... THERE'S NO ONE LEFT ON BOARD.
YOU BLASTED, INTERFERING ALIEN!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU, SUPERMAN!
THE WHOLE WORLD HAS HAD ENOUGH!

THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY, MR. PRESIDENT. ONCE SUPERMAN DRILLED THOSE HOLES IN THE HULL WITH HIS HEAT VISION--
--IT TOOK MERE MINUTES FOR THE SUBMARINE TO SINK.
BLASTED DO-GOODER! I HAD MY RUN-INS WITH HIM LONG BEFORE THE METROPOLIS DISASTER!
THE SITUATION IS WORSE THIS TIME, PRESIDENT FORREST.
THERE WERE SEVEN MEN ON BOARD THAT NUCLEAR-POWERED VESSEL WHEN IT WENT DOWN. SUPERMAN IS NOW A MURDERER.
P.R.-WISE, WE FINALLY HAVE HIM WHERE WE WANT HIM!
REMEMBER THIS, GENTLEMEN? A FEW DAYS AFTER THE METROPOLIS DISASTER--
--SUPERMAN'S OBSESSION TO R.I.D THE WORLD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BEGAN!
CNN
AT FIRST THE PUBLIC CHEERED HIM BECAUSE THE GIANT SWORD HANGING OVER MANKIND WAS BEING ERADICATED!
BUT NOW HE'S GONE OFF THE DEEP END! STICKING HIS NOSE INTO EVERY LITTLE AFFAIR IN EVERY TWO-BIT COUNTRY..
I CAMPAIGNED HARD SAYING I'D PUT THE *LEASH* ON SUPERMAN AND BY GOD, I WILL!

IN THE PAST WEEK OR SO SUPERMAN HAS DESTROYED EVERY NUCLEAR WEAPON WE SECRETLY REBUILT
WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FIRE-POWER LEFT TO TAKE ON A GIRL SCOUT TROOP!
WHAT ABOUT THE SOVIETS... THE CHINESE?

INTELLIGENCE INDICATES THEY ARE IN THE SAME SITUATION AS US. SUPERMAN IS SHOWING NO FAVORITISM.
GEORGE IS RIGHT... A SOVIET PILOT ONCE TOLD ME THAT SUPERMAN TORE A PAIR OF NUKES RIGHT OFF HIS WINGS!

UNFORTUNATELY WE STILL CAN'T BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT NO OTHER NATION HAS NUCLEAR CAPABILITY.
SUPERMAN CLAIMS TO HAVE DESTROYED THEM ALL, BUT...
WELL, AMERICA WON'T BE A SITTING DUCK UNDER MY WATCH!
HE MIGHT BE NAIVE ENOUGH TO THINK THE WORLD WILL LIVE IN PEACE BUT WE CAN'T TAKE THE CHANCE!

SEE, BOYS, WITH SUPERMAN RUNNING AROUND CREATING HIS OWN LAWS AND IDEALS--
--AMERICA IS ALMOST POWERLESS.
BUT THERE'S LITERALLY NOTHING WE CAN DO! THE FBI SURE DOESN'T HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO BRING HIM IN!
NO, BUT WE MUST HAVE SOME AMMUNITION NOW WE DIDN'T HAVE BEFORE!
IT WAS BAD ENOUGH WHEN SUPERMAN STARTED STEALING OIL TANKERS AND SILOS FULL OF GRAIN FOR IMPOVERISHED NATIONS!
SOME PEOPLE WERE MAD... BUT TOO MANY SYMPATHIZED!
BUT NOW THAT ALIEN MEDDLER HAS KILLED SOME AMERICAN BOYS AND GIVEN US THE NOOSE TO HANG HIM WITH AS WELL!
SET UP A PRESS CONFERENCE WHERE WE CAN MAKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT IF WE PLAY THIS UP RIGHT, WE'LL BE ABLE TO--
YOU'LL DO NOTHING, FORREST.

CALL THE SECRET SERVICE! HE'S GONNA KILL THE PRESIDENT!
RIDICULOUS. I'M HERE TO TELL YOU TO STOP WASTING TIME WITH ARMS BUILD-UP
WHATEVER YOU BUILD... I'LL DESTROY.
WHO WRAPPED YOU IN THE FLAG AND APPOINTED YOU KING?
I REPRESENT NO SINGLE NATION.
I REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF THE INNOCENT. ANYONE WHO'S BEEN VICTIMIZED BY PETTY WORLD LEADERS--
--AND KEPT POOR AND UNEDUCATED BY THEIR SELF-SERVING MOTIVES.
I'LL BE WATCHING YOU, FORREST.
MR. PRESIDENT, I HAVE A SUGGESTION
IT'S ABOUT TIME THE FBI CAME UP WITH SOMETHING, HOOPER. I HOPE IT'S A GOOD ONE
WE MAY NOT HAVE THE TOOLS--OR THE COURAGE--TO GO AFTER SUPERMAN, BUT THERE IS ONE MAN WHO MIGHT.
HE'S IGNORED OUR INQUIRIES ABOUT THIS IN THE PAST, BUT NOW THAT SUPERMAN HAS KILLED--

"--I'D SAY A TRIP TO GOTHAM CITY IS IN ORDER!"
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU SUMMONED ME, MAYOR GORDON.
MUST BE IMPORTANT.
AS IMPORTANT AS IT GETS, BATMAN.
IS IT A MATTER OF LAW AND ORDER... OR POLITICS?
BOTH.
THERE'S AN ADDRESS ON THIS SLIP OF PAPER.
BE THERE IN ONE HALF HOUR AND IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT NO ONE FOLLOW YOU.
NOT THAT ANYONE EVER HAS OF COURSE.
WHY THE SECRECY? YOU COULD HAVE JUST TOLD ME THE ADDRESS?
NOT SAFE TO TALK, BATMAN..
... THE SKIES HAVE EARS.

CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS SUPERMAN HAS SET HIMSELF UP AS JUDGE, JURY, AND EXECUTIONER.
HE'S SO POWERFUL THAT HE COULD BRING DOWN A MOUNTAIN RANGE BY SNAPPING H.S FINGERS
DESPITE ALL THAT, I'M MORE NERVOUS ABOUT MEETING THIS GUY. RUMOR HAS IT THAT--
PRESIDENT FORREST?
GOOD GOD-- I DIDN'T EVEN HEAR YOU COMING..!
WHAT DO YOU NEED?
A USEFUL SKILL IN MY LINE OF WORK
SERVICES THAT EVEN YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO RENDER, BATMAN.
YOU SEE, THINGS AREN'T LIKE THEY USED TO BE. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ELECT A PRESIDENT TO GOVERN AND DIRECT THE COUNTRY--
--AND THAT JOB IS BEING STOLEN BY SOMEONE ELSE.
I STILL DON'T SEE WHAT THIS HAS TO DO WITH ME.
THAT "SOMEONE" IS SUPERMAN. HE'S OUT OF CONTROL-- A WILD MAN.
FOR THE SAKE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA...FOR THE SAKE OF THE INNOCENTS OF THE WORLD--
--I'M ASKING YOU TO BRING HIM IN!

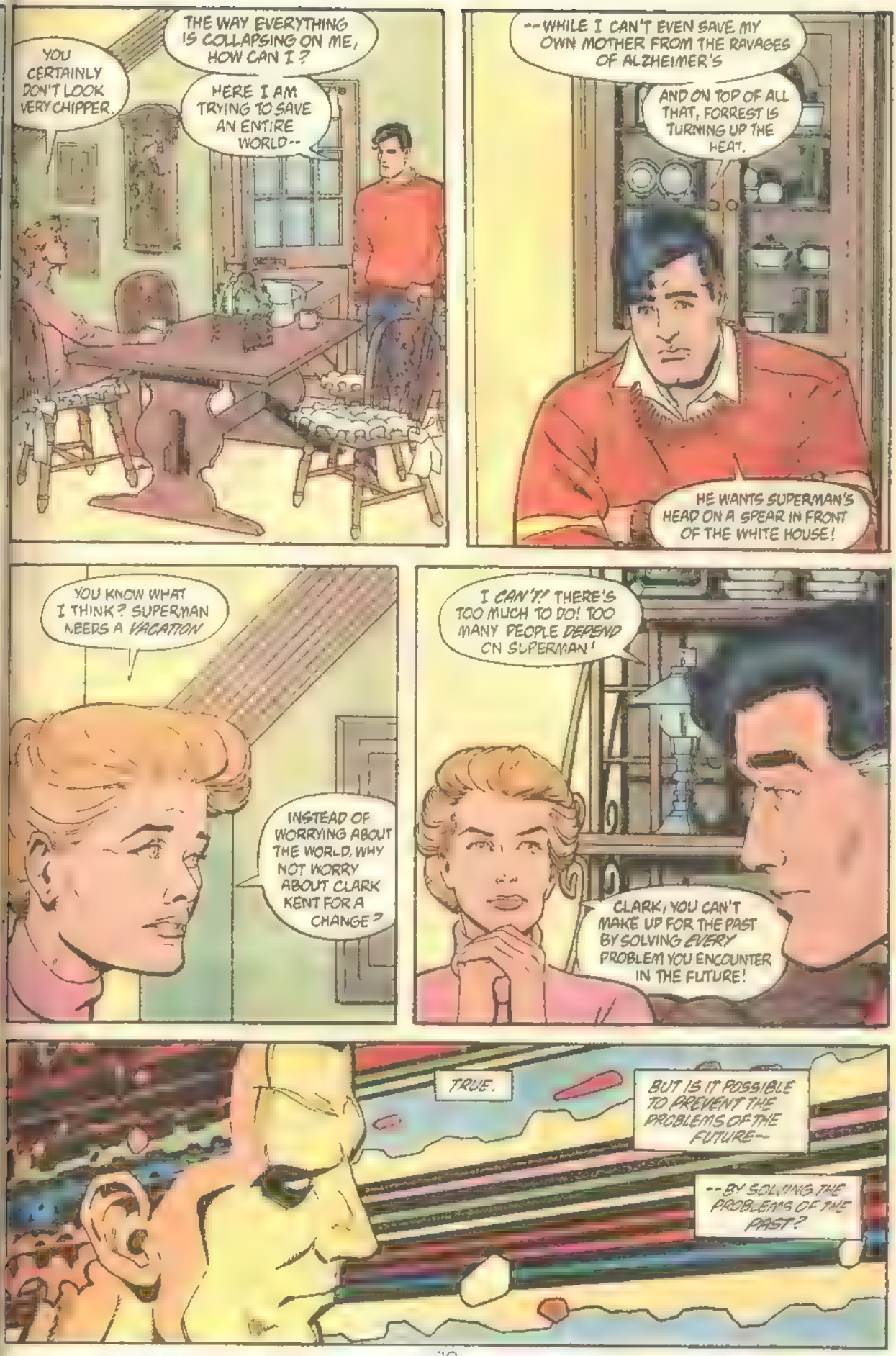
FORGET IT, FORREST!
EVEN IF I HAD THE ABILITY I WOULDN'T! SURE, HIS ACTIONS HAVE BEEN DRASTIC--
--BUT I'LL BE THE LAST ONE TO CRITICIZE SOMEONE FOR TAKING THE LAW INTO THEIR OWN HANDS!
NOW HOLD ON A MINUTE, BATMAN! OFF THE RECORD, I WILL ADMIT THAT YOUR METHODS DO HAVE--SHALL WE SAY--BENEFITS!
SUPERMAN'S METHODS DID AS WELL... IN THE BEGINNING...BUT HE'S GONE BEYOND THAT!
SO HE'S RAIDED YOUR NUCLEAR ARSENAL.
WOULDN'T YOU AGREE THAT THE WORLD IS PROBABLY BETTER OFF WITHOUT THEM?
IF HIS ACTIONS WERE LIMITED TO THAT--I MIGHT... OFF THE RECORD.
BUT SUPERMAN FINALLY CROSSED THE LINE LAST NIGHT, BATMAN. HE WENT TOO FAR.
SUPERMAN DISCOVERED ONE OF OUR SUBMARINES IN THE ATLANTIC AND SANK IT... NUCLEAR MISSILES AND ALL.
HE ORDERED THE MEN TO GET OUT... BUT DIDN'T WAIT LONG ENOUGH BEFORE STRIKING
SEVEN SAILORS WENT DOWN IN THAT SUBMARINE, BATMAN. SEVEN AMERICAN BOYS DROWNED DUE TO SUPERMAN'S ACTIONS.
ONCE HE WAS OBSESSED, BATMAN.
NOW HE'S A MURDERER.

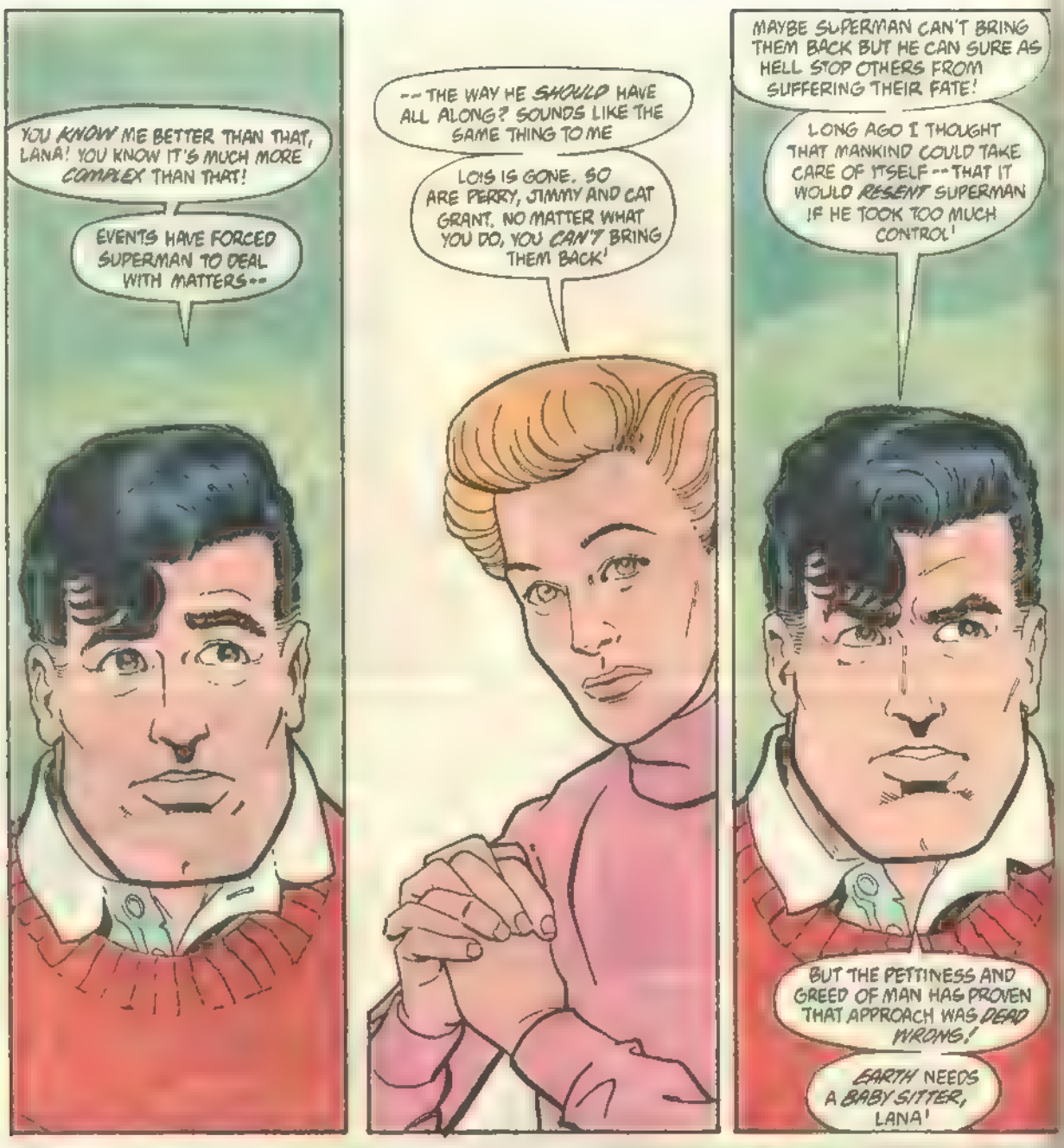
NICE TRY, FORREST. YOU AND YOUR GANG OF INTELLIGENCE SPOOKS CAN CONCOCT ANY STORY YOU WANT--
--BUT THERE'S NO WAY I'LL BELIEVE YOU DESPITE THE CHANGES IN SUPERMAN OVER THE YEARS--
--HE WOULD NEVER TAKE AN INNOCENT LIFE!
OH, HE KILLED THEM ALL RIGHT! YOU'RE THE FOREMOST DETECTIVE IN THE WORLD! IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME--
--DO SOME CHECKING! I THINK A MAN OF YOUR SKILLS WILL FIND IT EASY TO VERIFY THE FACTS!
ASSUMING I DID, WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'D BE ABLE TO BRING SOMEONE LIKE HIM TO JUSTICE?
COME NOW, BATMAN! DON'T TRY TO PLAY GAMES OF FALSE MODESTY WITH A POLITICIAN!
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, I KNOW YOU'LL DO THE JOB!
AND YOU'D BETTER DO IT SOON! WHO KNOWS WHAT HE MIGHT DO NEXT?
WITH EACH MOVE HE SEEMS TO SHOW LESS AND LESS RESPECT FOR LAWS AND GOVERNMENT!
AND THEN WHAT? NO JAIL CAN HOLD SUPERMAN!
I'VE CONSIDERED THAT PROBLEM.
AND SOME OF MY ADVISORS HAVE SUGGESTED A... PERMANENT SOLUTION.
NEED I SAY MORE?

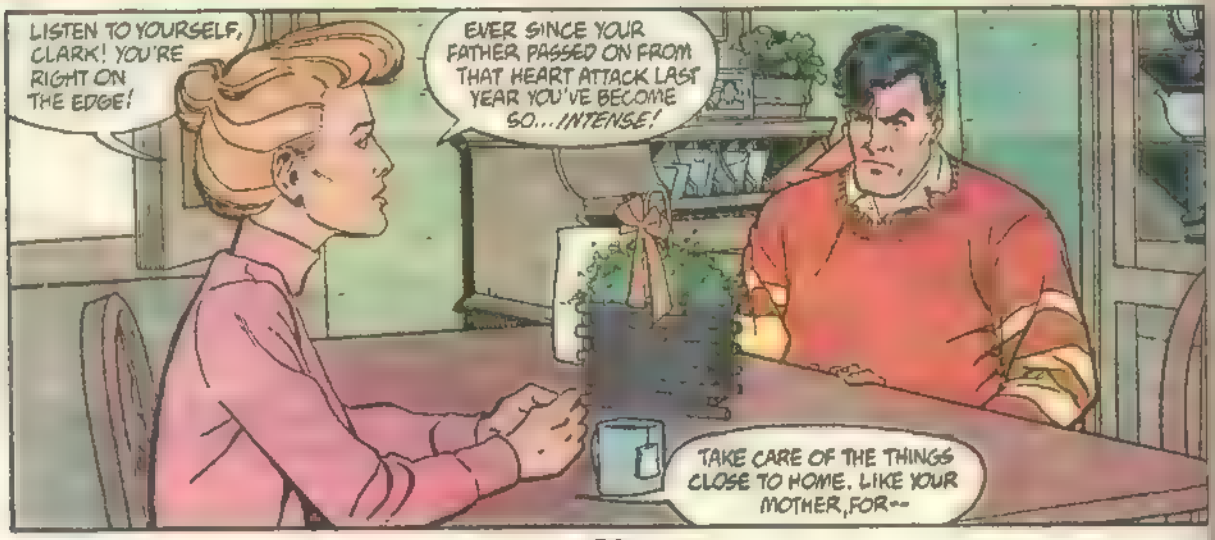
I ALWAYS FIGURED YOU FOR SLIME, FORREST! I JUST NEVER KNEW HOW BAD YOU REALLY WERE!
YOU ROAD THE COATTAILS OF A DISASTER AND YOU'VE NEVER LET UP!
IF YOU WANT SUPERMAN DEAD...DO IT YOURSELF!
COUNT--
--ME--
OUT!!
FINE! I'LL GET SOMEBODY ELSE! YOU WOULD HAVE HANDLED IT QUIETLY--
--BUT THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WON'T! BY THE TIME THEY FINISH THE JOB THE WHOLE WORLD WILL KNOW WHAT YOUR FRIEND DID!
SUPERMAN WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS A VILLAIN! YOU WANT THAT TO HAPPEN, THEN JUST FORGET THIS WHOLE CONVERSATION EVER HAPPENED.
I'LL MAKE A DEAL WITH YOU, FORREST. I'LL CHECK INTO THE SUBMARINE STORY.
IF IT'S TRUE...WE'LL SEE. IF IT'S NOT...I WILL TURN INTO THE WORST NIGHTMARE YOU EVER HAD.
BLASTED, POINTY-EARED VIGILANTE. SOON AS SUPERMAN'S OUT OF THE WAY--
AF1
--GOTHAM CITY LOSES HIM AS WELL! CITY'S A SEWER ANYWAYS...

THE TRUTH BECOMES MORE AND MORE CLEAR! AS HORRIFYING AS IT SOUNDS--
--THIS CENTURY'S GREATEST HERO--
--WILL, IN TIME, BECOME THE NEXT CENTURY'S GREATEST VILLAIN!
OH, GOODNESS, I'D FORGET MY HEAD IF I DIDN'T HAVE IT ATTACHED TO MY SHOULDERS!
HOW COULD I PLAN TO BAKE BISCUITS--
--WHEN I'M OUT OF FLOUR? NOW I'LL HAVE TO RUN INTO SMALLVILLE FOR SOME--
--NEVER MIND! THAT BLINKING LIGHT MEANS CLARK'S ON HIS WAY HOME! MAYBE I CAN SEND HIM...
WELCOME BACK, SWEETS! BUSY DAY AT WORK?
YEAH, STANDARD STUFF, I GUESS!
THERE'S A HOSPITAL IN VIETNAM THAT WAS ABSOLUTELY DESPERATE FOR SOME SPECIAL X-RAY EQUIPMENT.
A BOSTON HOSPITAL HAD SEVERAL UNITS SO I TOOK FROM THE "RICH" AND GAVE TO THE "POOR"!
ARE YOU SURE THAT WAS WISE?
LANA! YOU KNOW HOW BAD THE WORLD HAS GOTTEN! SOMEBODY HAS TO TAKE THE BULL BY THE HORNS AND FIX IT!
SORRY, CLARK. I TRUST YOUR JUDGMENT.
WELL, OTHERS DON'T!
A FEW AIRFORCE FIGHTER PLANES TRIED TO FOLLOW ME SO I USED THE EMERGENCY WYOMING TUNNEL TO ELUDE THEM!
FORREST IS TURNING UP THE HEAT, ISN'T HE?

DON'T WORRY, HE'LL NEVER GET ME. HOW'S MA?
SHE SLEPT A LITTLE BETTER THAN USUAL LAST NIGHT SO SHE SEEMS A BIT MORE SPRIGHTLY TODAY.
THE BEST MEDICINE IN THE WORLD WOULD BE A VISIT FROM HER SON.
YOU DO SUCH A GREAT JOB TAKING CARE OF HER. YOU'LL NEVER KNOW HOW MUCH THAT MEANS TO ME
HI, MA! FEELING BETTER THIS MORNING?
CLARK, IT'S ALWAYS A DELIGHT WHEN YOU WALK THROUGH THAT DOOR!
ARE YOU READY FOR SCHOOL? YOU HAVE THAT BIG ARITHMETIC TEST TODAY, YOU KNOW!
SURE, MA.
AFTER SCHOOL, WHY DON'T YOU GO SEE THAT PRETTY LANG GIRL? SHE CAME OVER TO VISIT ME TODAY!
MA, LANA AND I ARE MARRIED NOW. SHE'S MY WIFE REMEMBER?
JONATHAN MUST ALREADY BE OUT IN THE FIELDS WORKING I SWEAR, THAT FATHER OF YOURS GETS UP BEFORE THE CHICKENS!
HE SURE DOES, MA. HE SURE DOES.
HAVE A GOOD DAY AT SCHOOL, NOW, CLARKIE! DON'T LET THAT ARITHMETIC BEAT YOU!


YOU CERTAINLY DON'T LOOK VERY CHIPPER.
THE WAY EVERYTHING IS COLLAPSING ON ME, HOW CAN I?
HERE I AM TRYING TO SAVE AN ENTIRE WORLD--
--WHILE I CAN'T EVEN SAVE MY OWN MOTHER FROM THE RAVAGES OF ALZHEIMER'S
AND ON TOP OF ALL THAT, FORREST IS TURNING UP THE HEAT.
HE WANTS SUPERMAN'S HEAD ON A SPEAR IN FRONT OF THE WHITE HOUSE!
YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK? SUPERMAN NEEDS A VACATION
INSTEAD OF WORRYING ABOUT THE WORLD, WHY NOT WORRY ABOUT CLARK KENT FOR A CHANGE?
I CAN'T!' THERE'S TOO MUCH TO DO! TOO MANY PEOPLE DEPEND ON SUPERMAN!
CLARK, YOU CAN'T MAKE UP FOR THE PAST BY SOLVING EVERY PROBLEM YOU ENCOUNTER IN THE FUTURE!
TRUE.
BUT IS IT POSSIBLE TO PREVENT THE PROBLEMS OF THE FUTURE--
--BY SOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF THE PAST?


YOU KNOW ME BETTER THAN THAT, LANA! YOU KNOW IT'S MUCH MORE COMPLEX THAN THAT!
EVENTS HAVE FORCED SUPERMAN TO DEAL WITH MATTERS--
--THE WAY HE SHOULD HAVE ALL ALONG? SOUNDS LIKE THE SAME THING TO ME
LOIS IS GONE. SO ARE PERRY, JIMMY AND CAT GRANT. NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, YOU CAN'T BRING THEM BACK!
MAYBE SUPERMAN CAN'T BRING THEM BACK BUT HE CAN SURE AS HELL STOP OTHERS FROM SUFFERING THEIR FATE!
LONG AGO I THOUGHT THAT MANKIND COULD TAKE CARE OF ITSELF--THAT IT WOULD RESENT SUPERMAN IF HE TOOK TOO MUCH CONTROL!
BUT THE PETTINESS AND GREED OF MAN HAS PROVEN THAT APPROACH WAS DEAD WRONG!
EARTH NEEDS A BABY SITTER, LANA!


LISTEN TO YOURSELF, CLARK! YOU'RE RIGHT ON THE EDGE!
EVER SINCE YOUR FATHER PASSED ON FROM THAT HEART ATTACK LAST YEAR YOU'VE BECOME SO...INTENSE!
TAKE CARE OF THE THINGS CLOSE TO HOME. LIKE YOUR MOTHER, FOR--

I'VE TOLD YOU A THOUSAND TIMES! I *CAN'T CURE* THE WOMAN! NEITHER CAN SUPERMAN!
BUT HE *CAN* FEED THE HUNGRY! HE *CAN* HOUSE THE HOMELESS!
AND HE *CAN* MAKE SURE THAT NO ONE EVER DIES IN A NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST AGAIN!
EASY, KENT. IT'S TIME TO CALL IT QUITS AND YOU KNOW IT.
YOUK!
YEAH, *ME*.
IT'S TIME YOU AND I HAD A LITTLE CHAT.
BRUCE WAYNE! AM I EVER GLAD TO SEE YOU!
THAT A FACT?
SURE, YOU OF ALL PEOPLE UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO!
YOU'VE WORKED OUTSIDE THE LAW CARRYING ON A *PERSONAL* MISSION OF VENGEANCE FOR YEARS!

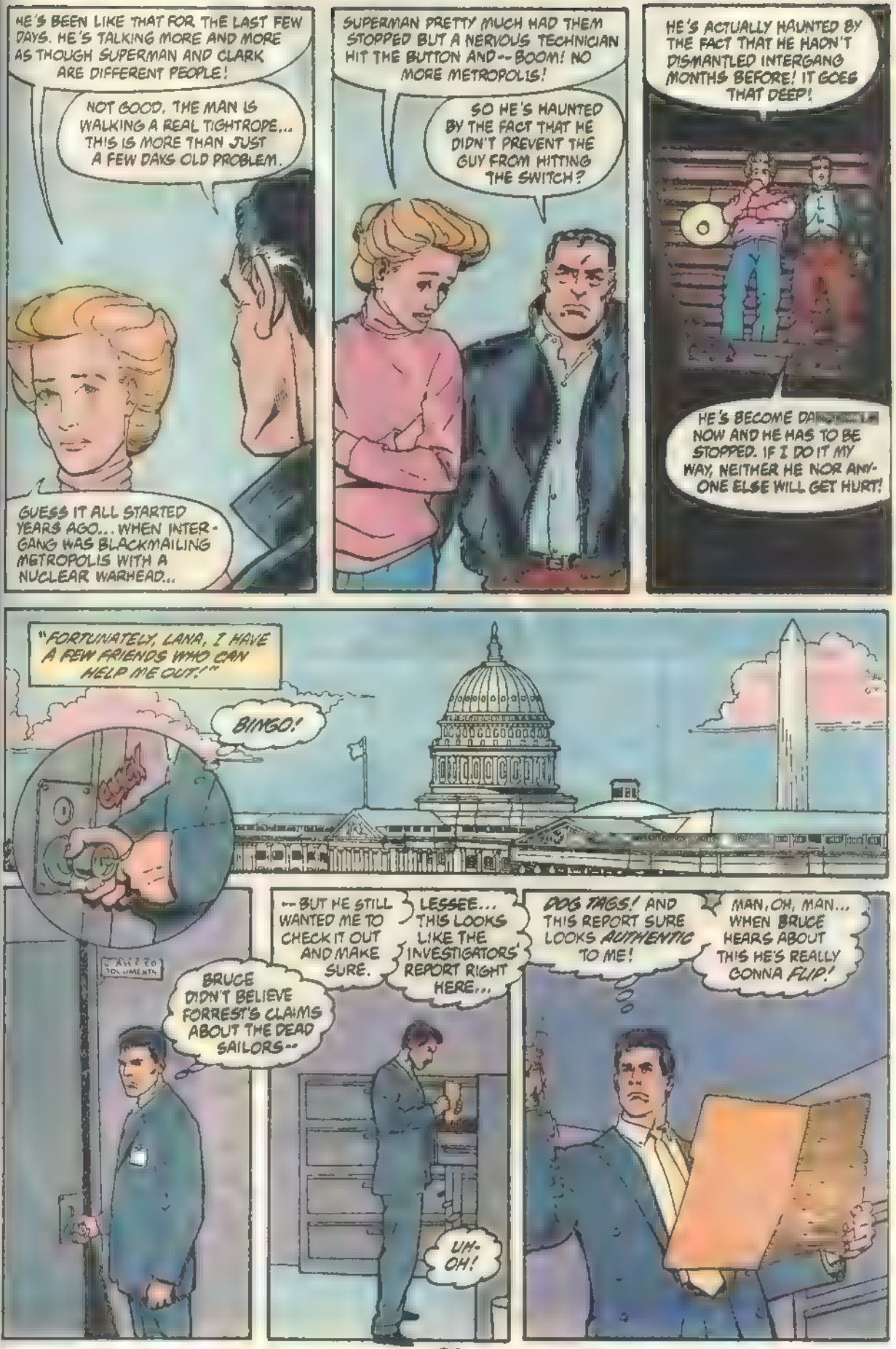
THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE PRESIDENT FORREST HAS REQUESTED THAT BATMAN BRING YOU IN--DEAD OR ALIVE!
OH, REALLY? WHAT DID YOU TELL HIM?
I TURNED HIM DOWN, OF COURSE! BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM!

YOU'VE PUSHED THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO THE WALL, PAL, AND THEY'VE DECIDED TO START PUSHING BACK!
LIES! I NEVER KILLED A SOUL, BRUCE! BEFORE I SANK THAT BOAT I MADE ABSOLUTELY SURE IT WAS EMPTY!
NOW THAT YOU KILLED THOSE SEAMEN ON THAT SUBMARINE--

I FIGURED FORREST HAD MADE THE WHOLE STORY UP!
LOOK, THE WORLD IS DIFFERENT NOW. WE'RE ALL OLDER--AT LEAST I THINK YOU ARE--

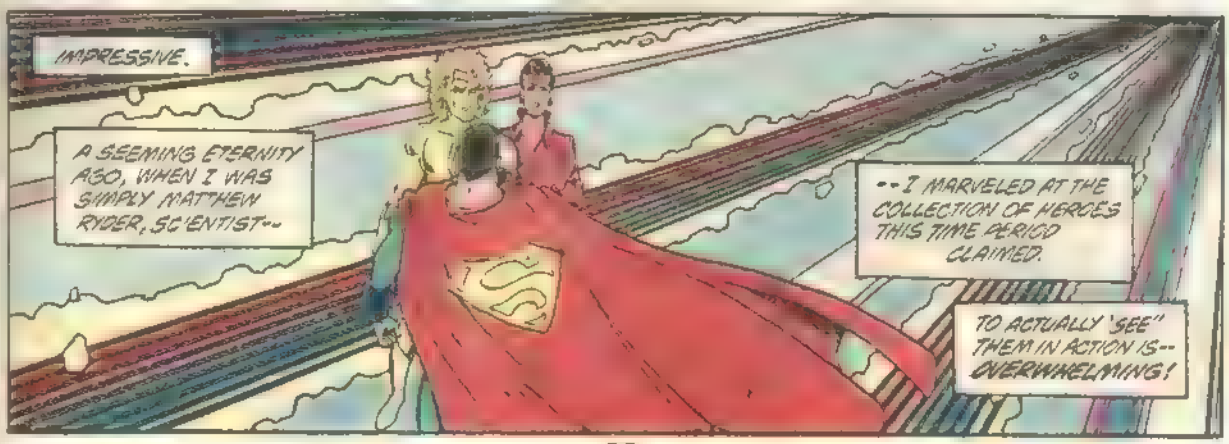
--AND WE JUST CAN'T OPERATE THE WAY WE USED TO! THEY WON'T LET US
IT'S NOT THAT I DISAPPROVE THE FIRST TIME YOU DESTROYED A NUCLEAR WEAPON I WONDERED WHAT HAD TAKEN YOU SO LONG!
ME TOO
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T STOP.

I WAITED TOO LONG.
TRIED TOO HARD TO BE THE GOOD GUY
I WANTED SO HARD FOR PEOPLE TO LIKE ME
NOW I JUST WANT THEM TO DO AS THEY'RE TOLD!
I'M BEGGING YOU, CLARK, GIVE IT A REST FOR AWHILE!
FORREST IS BOUND TO FIND SOMEONE WHO WILL GO AFTER YOU!
PLEASE, CLARK, HE'S RIGHT! ONCE THE CONTROVERSY DIES DOWN YOU CAN GO BACK OUT!
NO. LET 'EM COME. I CAN HANDLE ANYTHING THEY THROW AT ME AND MORE.
THERE IS A TASK TO BE DONE. A MISSION TO BE COMPLETED.
YOU'LL BE SAFE HERE, MRS. KENT. THE TUNNELS ARE SO VAST AND COMPLEX THAT NO ONE WILL EVER FIND THIS PLACE!
"MRS. KENT"?!


HE'S BEEN LIKE THAT FOR THE LAST FEW DAYS. HE'S TALKING MORE AND MORE AS THOUGH SUPERMAN AND CLARK ARE DIFFERENT PEOPLE!
NOT GOOD. THE MAN IS WALKING A REAL TIGHTROPE... THIS IS MORE THAN JUST A FEW DAYS OLD PROBLEM.
GUESS IT ALL STARTED YEARS AGO... WHEN INTER-GANG WAS BLACKMAILING METROPOLIS WITH A NUCLEAR WARHEAD..
SUPERMAN PRETTY MUCH HAD THEM STOPPED BUT A NERVOUS TECHNICIAN HIT THE BUTTON AND--BOOM! NO MORE METROPOLIS!
SO HE'S HAUNTED BY THE FACT THAT HE DIDN'T PREVENT THE GUY FROM HITTING THE SWITCH?
HE'S ACTUALLY HAUNTED BY THE FACT THAT HE HADN'T DISMANTLED INTERGANG MONTHS BEFORE! IT GOES THAT DEEP!
HE'S BECOME DA[illegible] NOW AND HE HAS TO BE STOPPED. IF I DO IT MY WAY, NEITHER HE NOR ANY-ONE ELSE WILL GET HURT!
"FORTUNATELY, LANA, I HAVE A FEW FRIENDS WHO CAN HELP ME OUT!"
BINGO!
CLICK
BRUCE DIDN'T BELIEVE FORREST'S CLAIMS ABOUT THE DEAD SAILORS--
--BUT HE STILL WANTED ME TO CHECK IT OUT AND MAKE SURE.
LESSEE... THIS LOOKS LIKE THE INVESTIGATORS' REPORT RIGHT HERE...
UM-OH!
DOG TAGS! AND THIS REPORT SURE LOOKS AUTHENTIC TO ME!
MAN, OH, MAN... WHEN BRUCE HEARS ABOUT THIS HE'S REALLY GONNA FLIP!

A FEW YEARS AGO WHEN KENT MOVED BACK TO SMALLVILLE HE SAW THE DANGER OF FLYING IN AND OUT OF THE KENT FARM.
A NETWORK OF TUNNELS THAT SNAKE THROUGH THE MIDWEST WAS THE SOLUTION.
OVER THE YEARS I'VE ADDED TO THE NETWORK-- MADE IT INCREDIBLY COMPLEX.
GOOD THING TOO, CONSIDER NG THE POLITICAL REALITIES OF MY SITUATION
BATMAN HAD SOME NERVE COMING TO ME... CONSIDERING HIS METHODS OVER THE YEARS.
IN TIME, I'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO DEAL WITH HIM TOO.
THAT NOISE... VOICES.. SOME-BODY'S COMING--

BATMAN HAS ASSEMBLED A VAST CADRE OF HEROES TO GUARD ALL YOUR TUNNEL EXITS, SUPERMAN.
WE DEEPLY REGRET THAT IT'S COME TO THIS...BUT WE HAVE NO CHOICE.
YOUR SELF-RIGHTEOUS ACTIVITIES MUST BE TERMINATED!
TOO BAD WE HAVE TO BE SO HARD ON HIM! HE REALLY IS KINDA CUTE...
GET SERIOUS, FIRE! THIS GUY IS TOUGH ENOUGH TO RIP US APART PRETTY GOOD!
BACK OFF, MANHUNTER! IF YOUR LEAGUE TRULY REPRESENTS JUSTICE--
--YOU'LL LEAVE ME ALONE!


IMPRESSIVE.
A SEEMING ETERNITY AGO, WHEN I WAS SIMPLY MATTHEW RYDER, SCIENTIST--
--I MARVELED AT THE COLLECTION OF HEROES THIS TIME PERIOD CLAIMED.
TO ACTUALLY "SEE" THEM IN ACTION IS-- OVERWHELMING!

IN FACT, IF YOUR LEAGUE WAS ALL IT CLAIMED TO BE, YOU'D ACTUALLY ASSIST ME!
BUT YOU WON'T, WILL YOU? NONE OF YOU HAVE THE COURAGE TO SEE WHAT MUST BE DONE!
YOUR LIMITED MINDS CAN ONLY COMPREHEND THE IDEA OF POUNDING ME INTO SUBMISSION!
OH, LIGHTEN UP, S'MAN! YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T KEEP RUNNING AROUND POKING A STICK INTO THE SPOKES OF THE WORLD'S BICYCLE WHEEL!
IT'S THREE AGAINST ONE, PAL! I'D SAY IT'S TIME TO CASH IN YOUR CHIPS!
YOU'D KNOW ALL ABOUT BETTING, WOULDN'T YOU, BOOSTER?
BUT RATHER THAN FOLD--
--I THINK I'LL RAISE THE STAKES.
I DUNNO, J'ONN. SOUNDS LIKE HE'S GONNA BE TROUBLE TO--
--TO--
--YEEOWW!
HE FRIED MY FLIGHT RINGEEE!
KRUD

YOU WANT HEAT YOU GOT IT, MAESTRO!
VIZZZZZZ
WE'VE DANCED TO THIS TUNE BEFORE, GOLD.
YOU KNOW I'M INVULNERABLE TO YOUR ENERGY BLASTS
SPANG
ZRRRRRT!
AIEEE! THAT HURT! YOU DID THAT ON PURPOSE, YOU BIG BULLY!
UNDERSTAND HOW DEEPLY I REGRET THIS, SUPERMAN, BUT THIS SITUATION IS INTOLERABLE
YOU KNOW I AM YOUR PHYSICAL EQUAL.
CAN YOU NOT SEE WE WILL EVENTUALLY DEFEAT YOU?

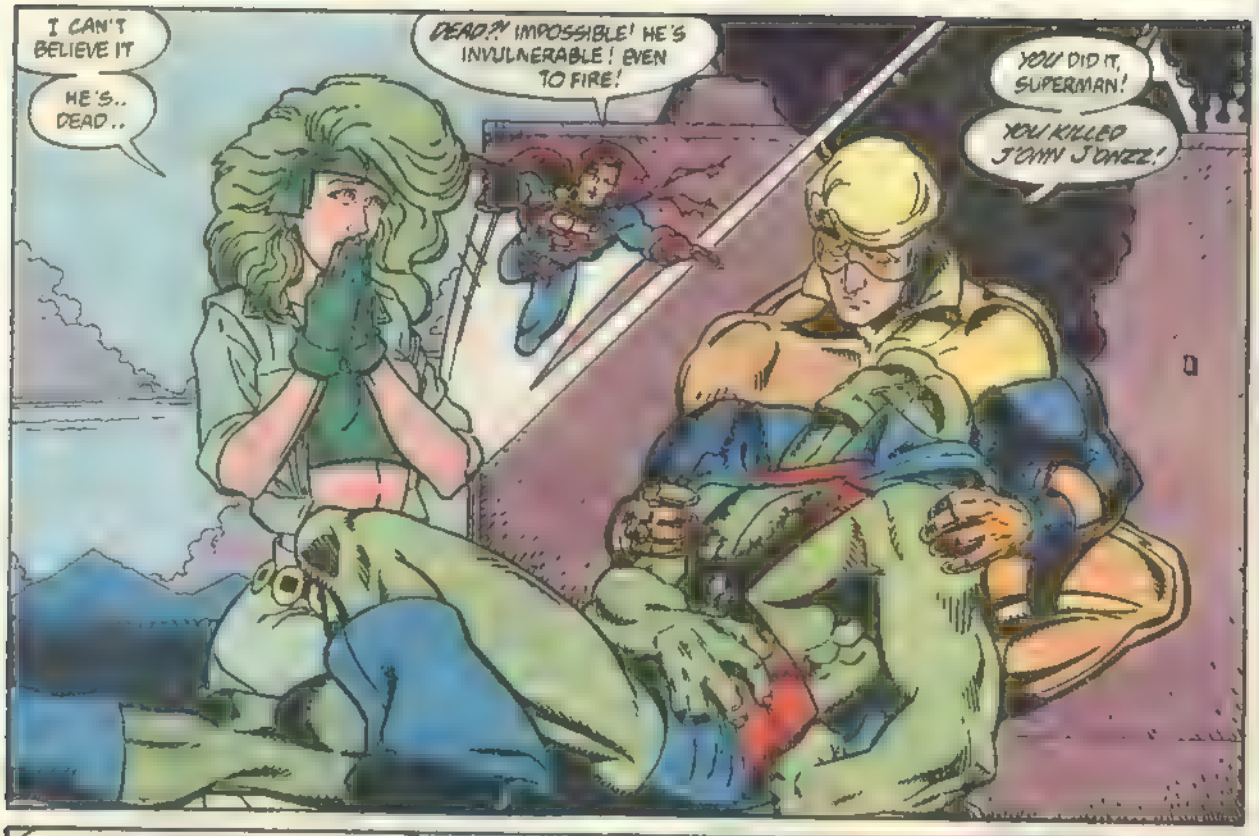
STRENGTH HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT, MANHUNTER!
IT'S THE CONVICTION THAT WHAT YOU RE DOING IS RIGHT!
IT'S REALIZING THAT IF YOU DON'T PREVAIL AN ENTIRE CAUSE IS LOST!
THAT MAKES ME YOUR BETTER BY FAR!
GET A LOAD OF THIS GUY--
--HE FIGURES THE WHOLE WORLD IS GONNA STOP TURNIN' IF HE GETS SO MUCH AS A HANG NAIL!
HOW COULD WE LET HIM GO UNCHECKED FOR SO LONG?
I SAY BLAST HIM AND WORRY ABOUT THE QUESTIONS LATER!
SKR-AAAK
BRAKAAAA

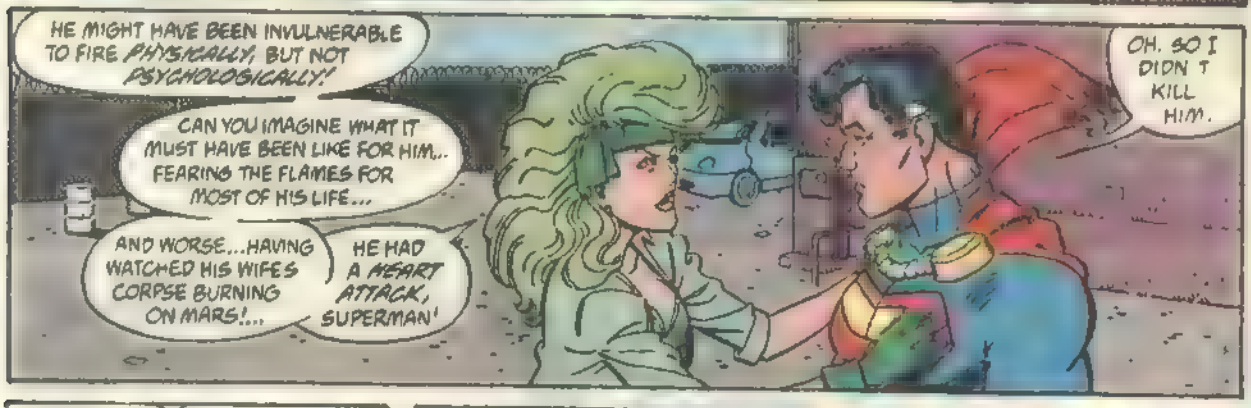
WOW, WE BLEW HIM CLEAN THROUGH THAT WALL! HE MUST NOT BE AS STRONG AS WE THOUGHT!
I THINK IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO RESIGN YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN OPTIMISTS, FLAME!
THE WORLD'S DESTINY HANGS IN THE BALANCE AND YOU TWO MAKE JOKES!
NO WONDER THE JUSTICE LEAGUE IS INCAPABLE OF DOING MORE THAN ARREST JAY-WALKERS!
POMPOUS BUGGER, ISN'T HE?
NO, BOOSTER! DON'T FIRE YOUR ENERGY BLASTS! CAN'T YOU SEE HE'LL JUST--
SPZAKK
SHPINGG
SKRASSH

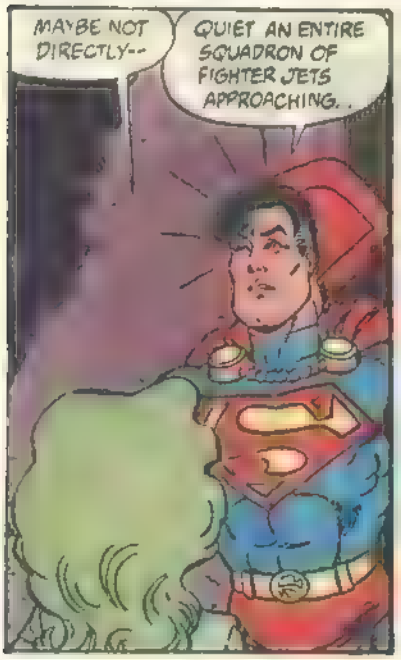
ENOUGH
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'VE HAD TO WASTE TIME PLAYING THIS CHILD'S GAME WHEN THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE
WHY CAN'T ANYONE SEE THE NEED FOR MY ACTIONS?
WHY CAN'T THEY UNDERSTAND?
PERHAPS YOU ARE THE ONE WHO MUST UNDERSTAND THE REALITIES AT WORK HERE
IT IS THEIR WORLD NOT OURS.
WE MUST LET THEM BE THE ONES WHO RUN IT
J'ONN'S KEEPIN' HIM BUSY, BOOSTER! NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO HIT HIM WITH EVERYTHING WE GOT!
HIGH INTENSITY ALL THE WAY, FIRE!
I HEARD THAT!
HAVE JUST ENOUGH TIME--
--TO WHIP THE MANHUNTER AROUND SO HE TAKES THE BLAST!
SHRAKK!!!
"UNCONSCIOUS... HE'LL SURVIVE THE FALL THROUGH THE PLANT'S ROOF...!
"AND IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY J'ONN'S VULNERABILITY TO FIRE WAS WIPED YEARS AGO."

I HAVE TO ADMIT... I HATED FIGHTING THE LEAGUE LIKE THAT--
--BUT THEY JUST CAN'T SEE THE FORREST THROUGH THE TREES! NEVER COULD.
THAT'S THE WHOLE REASON I QUIT THEIR CLUB BACK IN--
YAHOOO!
BLAKAM
THAT'LL TEACH THE BIG RED "S" NOT TO DAYDREAM WHEN WE'RE SNEAKIN' UP ON HIM!
CONSIDER HIM--
"--SCRATCHED!"
DAMN!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I LET THAT HAPPEN! BETTER USE MY TELESCOPIC VISION AND MAKE SURE THE LEAGUE ISN'T BACK ON THEIR FEE--!
STRANGE! LOOKS LIKE J'ONN IS IN SOME KIND OF PAIN...
FIRE... EVERYWHERE... MY . HEART..

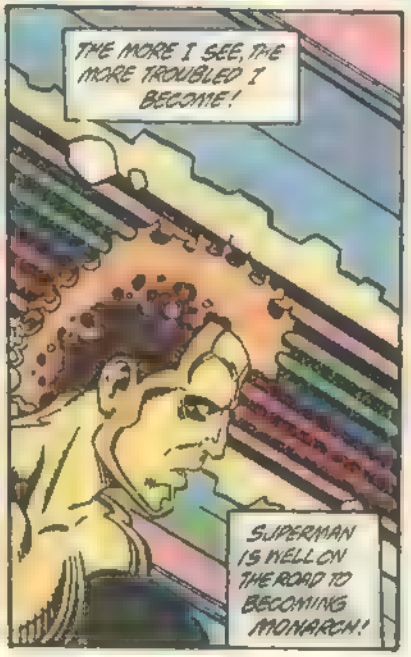
NO... CAN'T LET IT BOTHER ME... HIS OWN TEAMMATES DID TH S TO HIM...
BESIDES--
IT'S TIME FOR ME TO TEACH THE UNITED STATES MILITARY A LESSON!
I CAN T ALLOW THEM TO STORM THE AMERICAN SKIES TRYING TO SHOOT ME DOWN!
WOOOSH
FOR ALL I KNOW, THEY'VE ALREADY LOCATED ONE OF MY TUNNEL EXITS!
MAYDAY! MAYDAY!
FORREST MUST BE FEELING THE HEAT IF HE S WILLING TO GO THIS FAR TO STOP ME.
UNFORTUNATELY HE'S ONLY CONVINCING ME THAT I'M DOING THE RIGHT THING!
THIS MADNESS OF WEAPONS AND WAR MUST STOP!
GOOD! LOOKS LIKE BOTH PILOTS ARE OKAY!
NOOO!
HUH? FIRE?

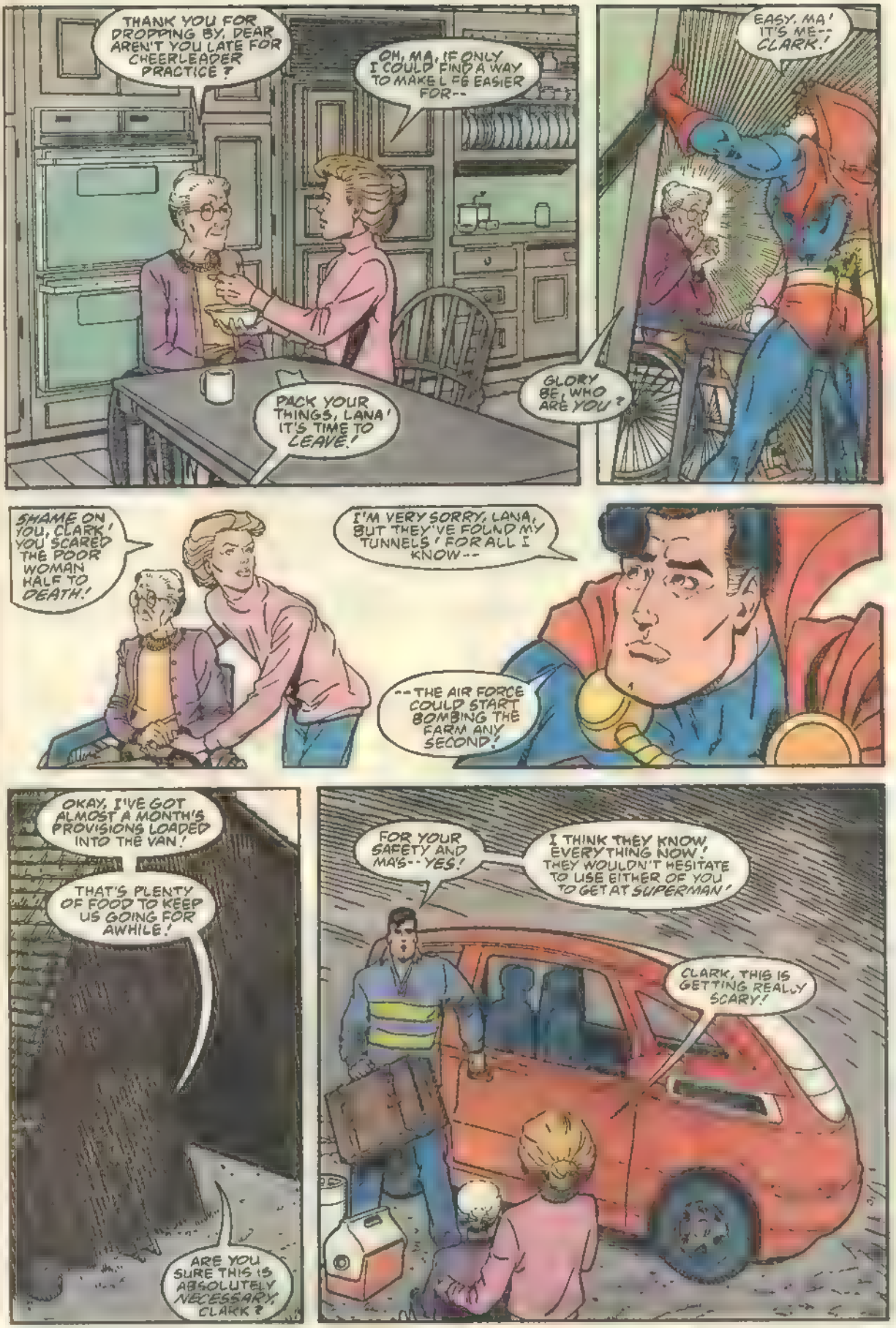

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT
HE'S.. DEAD..
DEAD?! IMPOSSIBLE! HE'S INVULNERABLE! EVEN TO FIRE!
YOU DID IT, SUPERMAN!
YOU KILLED J'ONN J'ONZZ!


HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN INVULNERABLE TO FIRE PHYSICALLY, BUT NOT PSYCHOLOGICALLY!
CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT IT MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE FOR HIM.. FEARING THE FLAMES FOR MOST OF HIS LIFE...
AND WORSE...HAVING WATCHED HIS WIFE'S CORPSE BURNING ON MARS!...
HE HAD A HEART ATTACK, SUPERMAN!
OH. SO I DIDN'T KILL HIM.


MAYBE NOT DIRECTLY--
QUIET AN ENTIRE SQUADRON OF FIGHTER JETS APPROACHING..

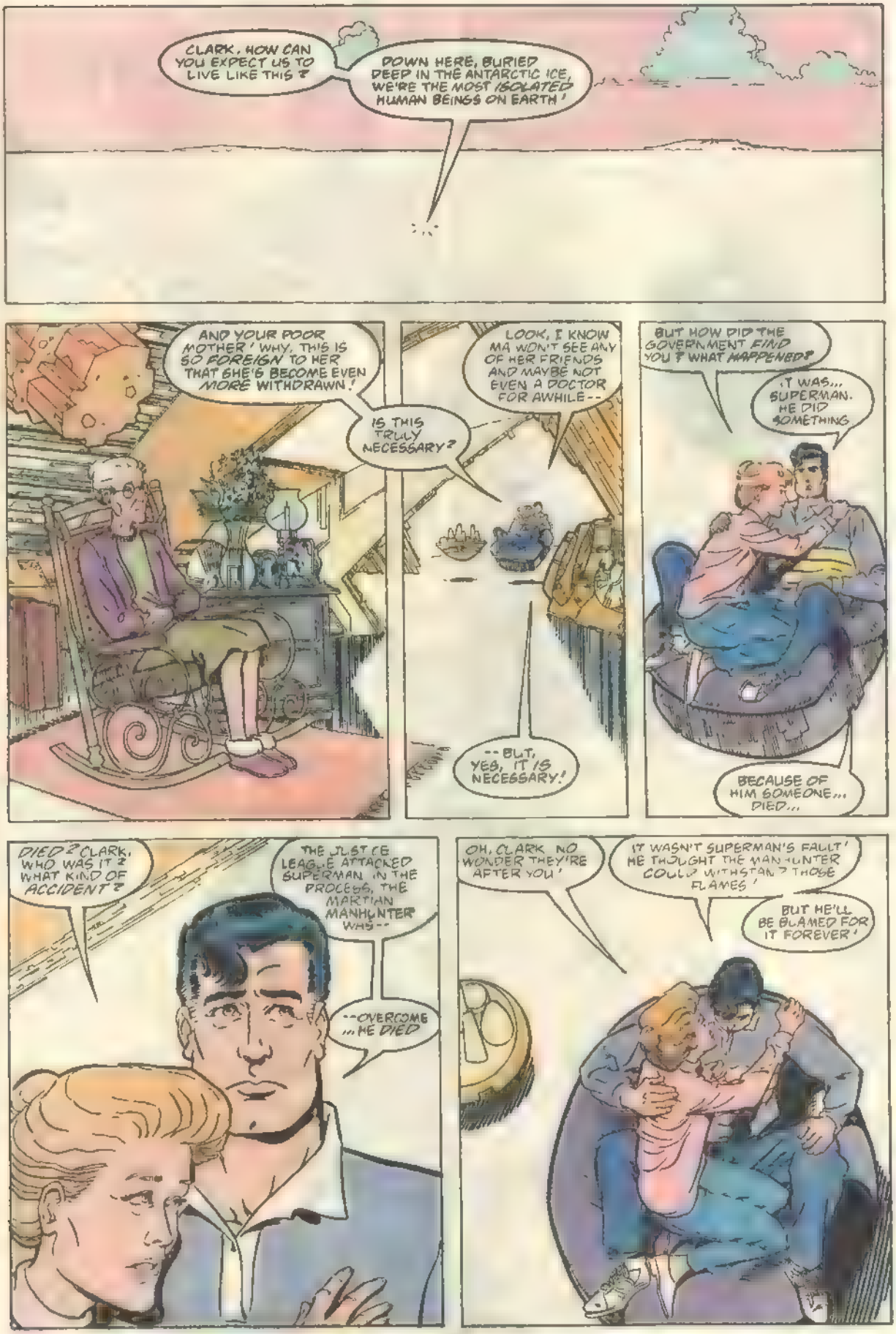
MAYBE J'ONZZ'S DEATH WILL TEACH YOU TO LEAVE ME ALONE.
IT WOULD BE A SHAME IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO THE REST OF YOU.

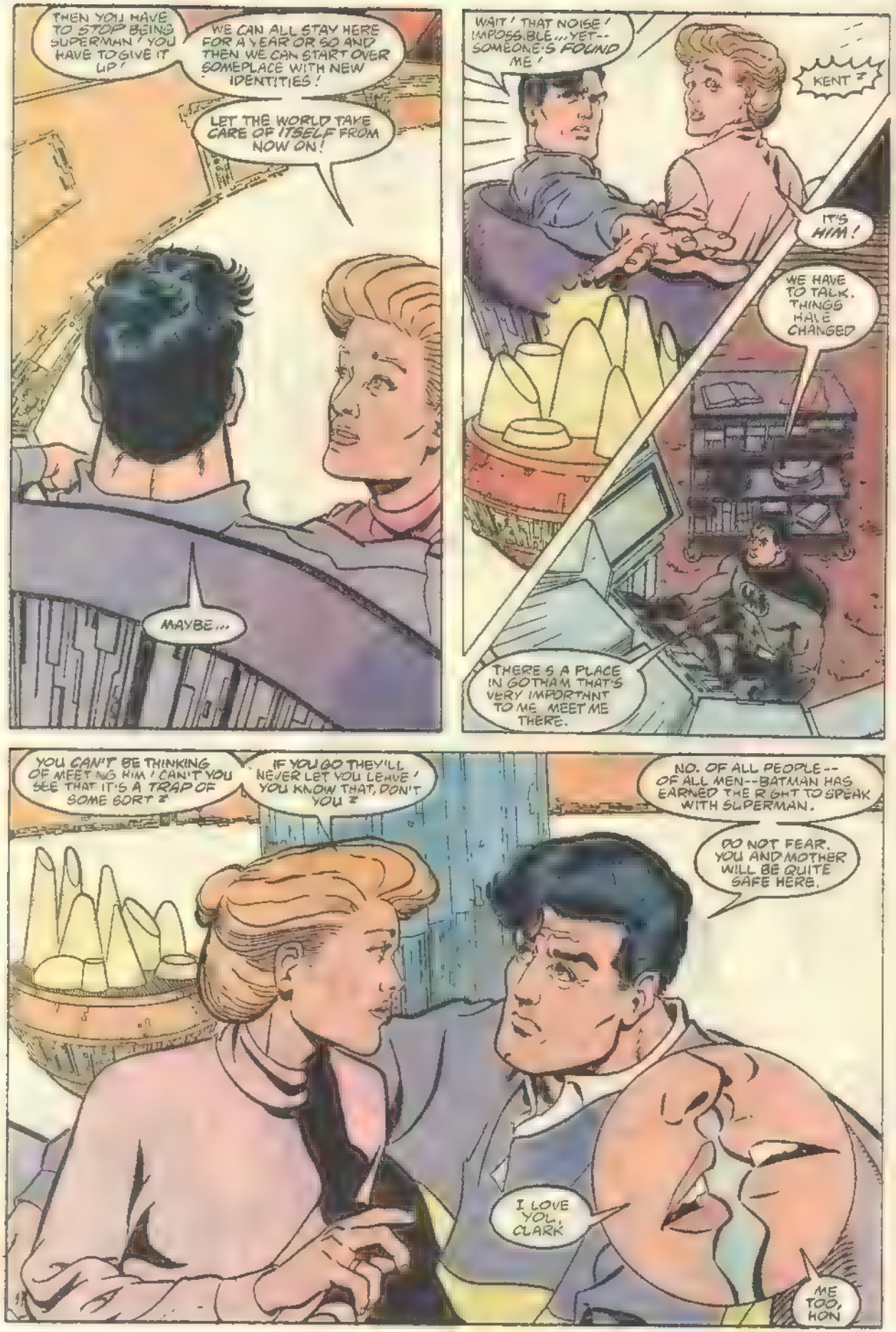

THE MORE I SEE, THE MORE TROUBLED I BECOME!
SUPERMAN IS WELL ON THE ROAD TO BECOMING MONARCH!

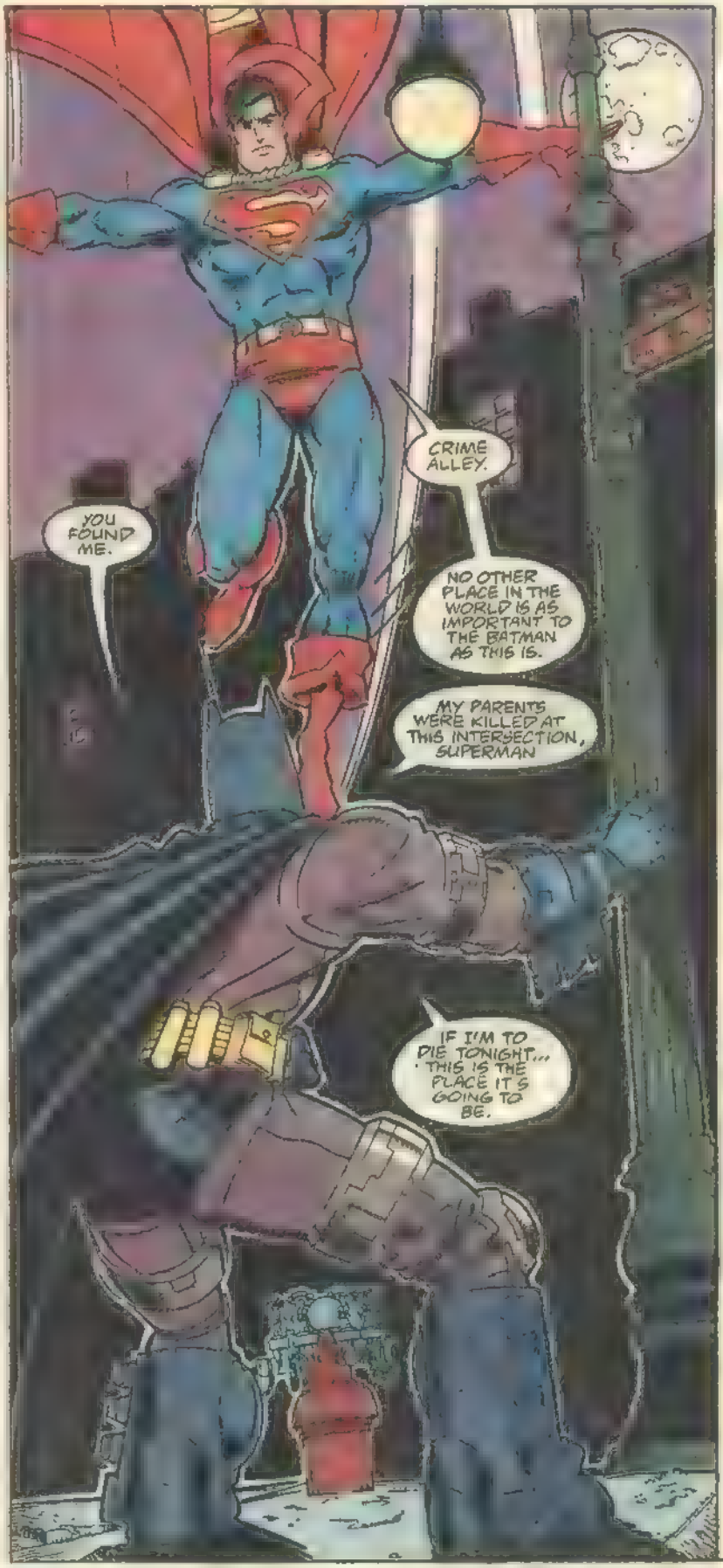

THANK YOU FOR DROPPING BY, DEAR! AREN'T YOU LATE FOR CHEERLEADER PRACTICE?
OH, MA, IF ONLY I COULD FIND A WAY TO MAKE LIFE EASIER FOR--
PACK YOUR THINGS, LANA! IT'S TIME TO LEAVE!
EASY, MA! IT'S ME-- CLARK!
GLORY BE, WHO ARE YOU?
SHAME ON YOU, CLARK! YOU SCARED THE POOR WOMAN HALF TO DEATH!
I'M VERY SORRY, LANA, BUT THEY'VE FOUND MY TUNNELS! FOR ALL I KNOW--
--THE AIR FORCE COULD START BOMBING THE FARM ANY SECOND!
OKAY, I'VE GOT ALMOST A MONTH'S PROVISIONS LOADED INTO THE VAN!
THAT'S PLENTY OF FOOD TO KEEP US GOING FOR AWHILE!
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, CLARK?
FOR YOUR SAFETY AND MA'S-- YES!
I THINK THEY KNOW EVERYTHING NOW! THEY WOULDN'T HESITATE TO USE EITHER OF YOU TO GET AT SUPERMAN!
CLARK, THIS IS GETTING REALLY SCARY!

BUNDLE UP GOOD AND WARM, LADIES...
...IT'S GOING TO BE MIGHTY COLD WHERE WE'RE HEADING.
THE TRULY DIFFICULT THING IS LEAVING THIS FARM--THIS HOME--FOREVER
IN A WAY, I'M GLAD YOU'RE NOT HERE TO SEE THIS DAY, PA.
BUT TRUTH TO TELL--I THINK I NEED YOU NOW MORE THAN EVER!
THAT'S THE STORY, BRUCE.
EVERY BIT OF EVIDENCE I FOUND IN WASHINGTON POINTS TO THE FACT THAT PRESIDENT FORREST TOLD YOU THE TRUTH!
SUPERMAN REALLY DID KILL THOSE SAILORS!

I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD COME TO THIS, TIM. ANY IDEAS?
LOOK, IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! THAT DOESN'T MEAN THE GUY IS A LOOSE CANNON!
1941
LIBERTY
THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THAT.
THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WENT AFTER HIM EARLIER TODAY WITH DISASTROUS RESULTS.
THE MARTIAN MANHUNTER--THEIR STRONGEST MEMBER--IS DEAD!
SUPERMAN DID THAT? MAN, IF HE COULDN'T BRING SUPERMAN IN--
--NO ONE CAN! AND WITH ALL THE DEAD BODIES HE'S LEAVING--
--IT SOUNDS LIKE SOMEBODY BETTER DO THE JOB QUICK!
I CAN DO IT.
I WANT THE MEANS TO STOP ME TO BE IN THE HANDS OF A MAN I CAN TRUST WITH MY LIFE.
"QUOTE ACTION COMICS #654
HE GAVE ME THE LICENSE TO DO IT JUST ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO.
I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD COME TO THIS BUT IT HAS.
AND I KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO.

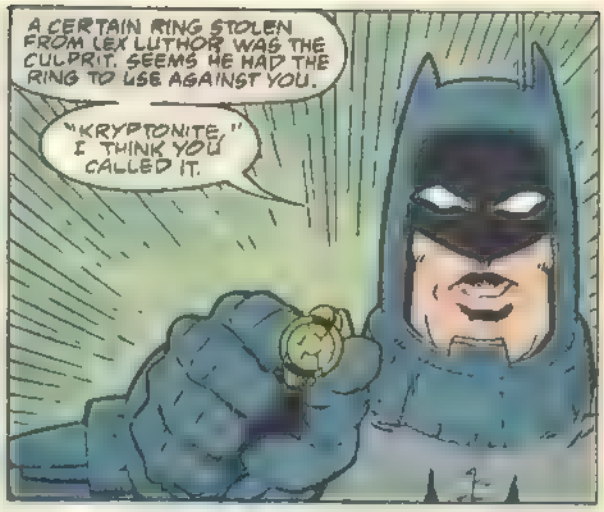

CLARK, HOW CAN YOU EXPECT US TO LIVE LIKE THIS?
DOWN HERE, BURIED DEEP IN THE ANTARCTIC ICE, WE'RE THE MOST ISOLATED HUMAN BEINGS ON EARTH!
AND YOUR POOR MOTHER! WHY, THIS IS SO FOREIGN TO HER THAT SHE'S BECOME EVEN MORE WITHDRAWN!
IS THIS TRULY NECESSARY?
LOOK, I KNOW MA WON'T SEE ANY OF HER FRIENDS AND MAYBE NOT EVEN A DOCTOR FOR AWHILE--
--BUT, YES, IT IS NECESSARY!
BUT HOW DID THE GOVERNMENT FIND YOU? WHAT HAPPENED?
IT WAS... SUPERMAN. HE DID SOMETHING
BECAUSE OF HIM SOMEONE... DIED...
DIED? CLARK, WHO WAS IT? WHAT KIND OF ACCIDENT?
THE JUSTICE LEAGUE ATTACKED SUPERMAN. IN THE PROCESS, THE MARTIAN MANHUNTER WAS--
--OVERCOME... HE DIED
OH, CLARK. NO WONDER THEY'RE AFTER YOU!
IT WASN'T SUPERMAN'S FAULT! HE THOUGHT THE MANHUNTER COULD WITHSTAND THOSE FLAMES!
BUT HE'LL BE BLAMED FOR IT FOREVER!

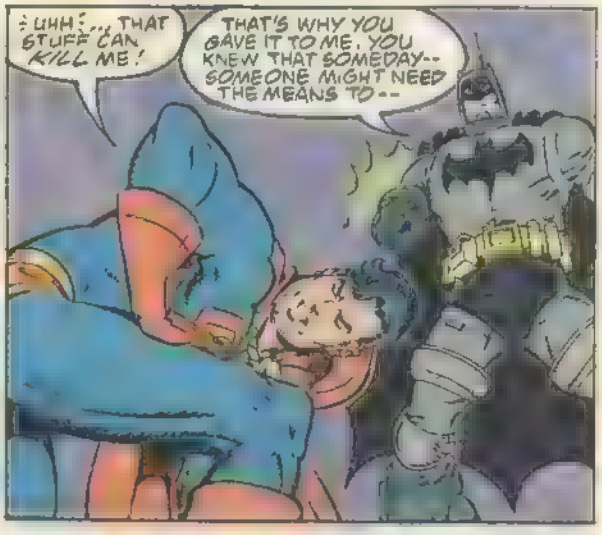

THEN YOU HAVE TO STOP BEING SUPERMAN! YOU HAVE TO GIVE IT UP!
WE CAN ALL STAY HERE FOR A YEAR OR SO AND THEN WE CAN START OVER SOMEPLACE WITH NEW IDENTITIES!
LET THE WORLD TAKE CARE OF ITSELF FROM NOW ON!
MAYBE...
WAIT! THAT NOISE! IMPOSS.BLE...YET--SOMEONE'S FOUND ME!
KENT?
IT'S HIM!
WE HAVE TO TALK. THINGS HAVE CHANGED
THERE'S A PLACE IN GOTHAM THAT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO ME MEET ME THERE.
YOU CAN'T BE THINKING OF MEETING HIM! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT IT'S A TRAP OF SOME SORT?
IF YOU GO THEY'LL NEVER LET YOU LEAVE! YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?
NO. OF ALL PEOPLE--OF ALL MEN--BATMAN HAS EARNED THE RIGHT TO SPEAK WITH SUPERMAN.
DO NOT FEAR. YOU AND MOTHER WILL BE QUITE SAFE HERE.
I LOVE YOU, CLARK
ME TOO, HON

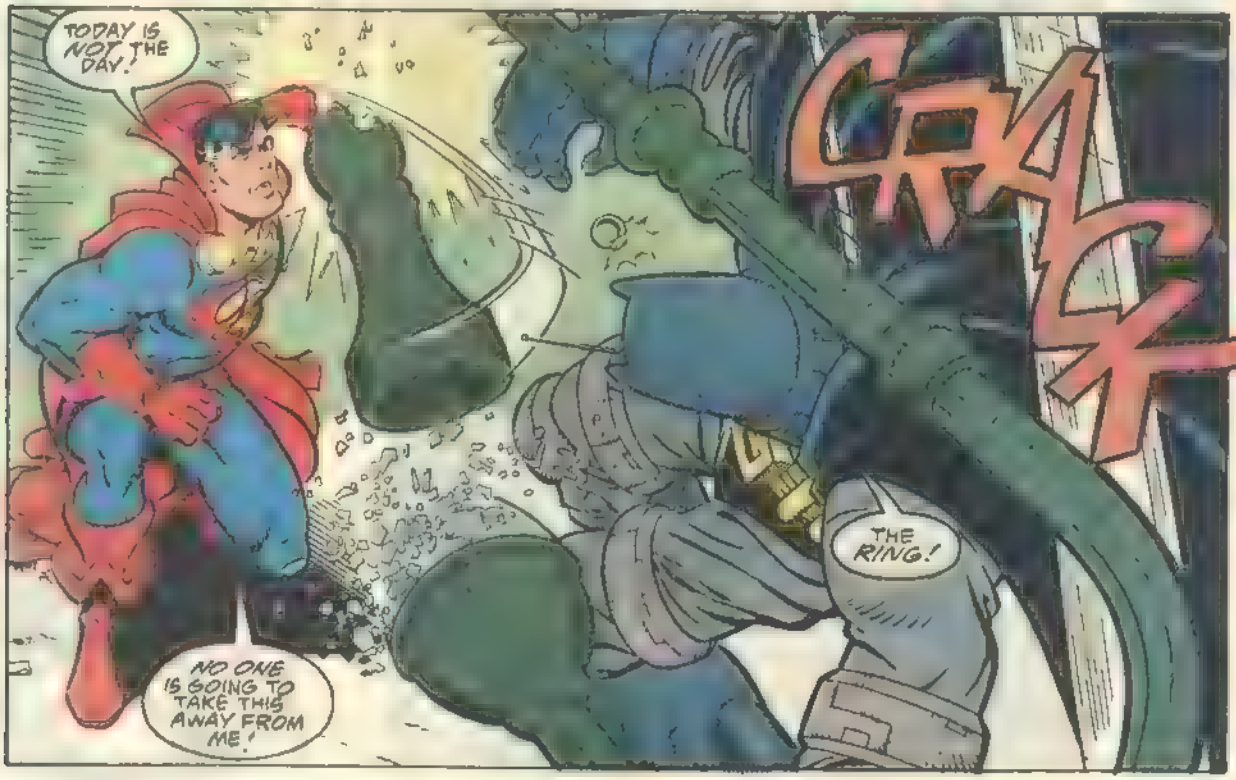

YOU FOUND ME.
CRIME ALLEY.
NO OTHER PLACE IN THE WORLD IS AS IMPORTANT TO THE BATMAN AS THIS IS.
MY PARENTS WERE KILLED AT THIS INTERSECTION, SUPERMAN
IF I'M TO DIE TONIGHT... THIS IS THE PLACE IT'S GOING TO BE.

THIS IS IT
THE CRUCIBLE IN THE CREATION OF MONARCH
I NEVER SUSPECTED-- NEVER DREAMED--IT BEGAN THIS WAY.
YOU CAN'T RUN FREE ANY LONGER, KENT.
YOU'RE DANGEROUS

DANGEROUS? WHAT A JOKE.
MAN'S DEVICES, INHUMANITY, AND GREED ARE FAR MORE DANGEROUS TO HIS SURVIVAL THAN I AM.
OVER TEN YEARS AGO WE GOT INVOLVED IN THE SAME CASE
MYSTERIOUS RADIATION DEATHS DOTTED BOTH GOTHAM AND METROPOLIS


A CERTAIN RING STOLEN FROM LEX LUTHOR WAS THE CULPRIT. SEEMS HE HAD THE RING TO USE AGAINST YOU.
"KRYPTONITE," I THINK YOU CALLED IT.


:UHH!... THAT STUFF CAN KILL ME!
THAT'S WHY YOU GAVE IT TO ME. YOU KNEW THAT SOMEDAY-- SOMEONE MIGHT NEED THE MEANS TO--

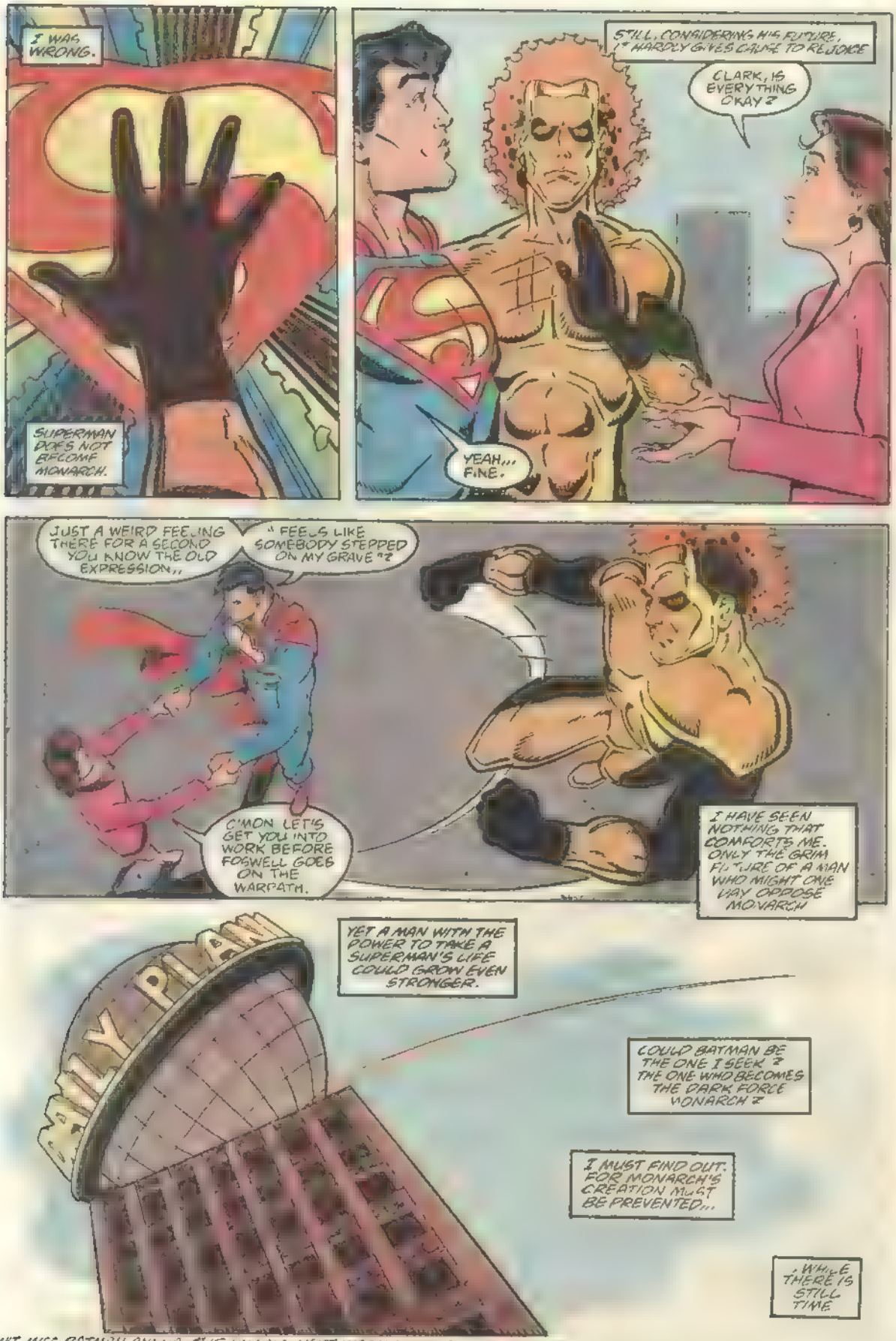

TODAY IS NOT THE DAY!
CRAK
THE RING!
NO ONE IS GOING TO TAKE THIS AWAY FROM ME!

YOU FOOL... YOU REFUSE TO SEE THE TRUTH!
IT'S AS MUCH YOUR FAULT AS MINE THE MANHUNTER DIED.
YOU SENT HIM AFTER ME.
I CHECKED INTO THE SUBMARINE INCIDENT... THERE REALLY WERE MEN ON BOARD WHEN IT SANK.
YOUR RECKLESS OBSESSION KILLED SEVEN INNOCENT MEN.
THAT'S A LIE! I MADE SURE THE SUB WAS EMPTY!
THINK ABOUT IT, PAL... IT WAS A NUCLEAR-POWERED SUBMARINE--
--THERE WAS SO MUCH LEAD IN THE REACTOR AREAS, YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE SEEN EVERYBODY!

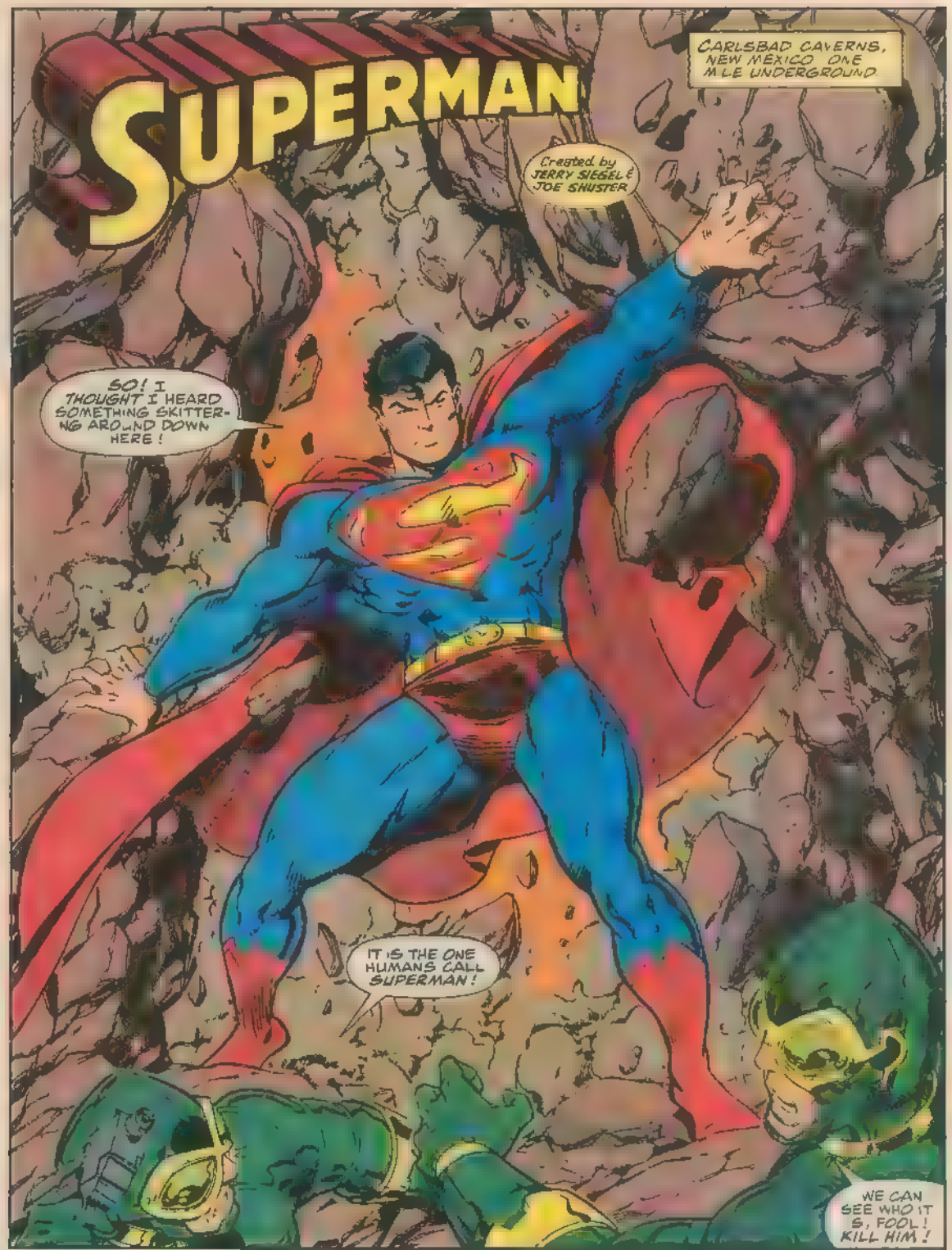
SEE, THE BATMAN IS RIGHT... A GUY LIKE YOU WITH THOSE TREMENDOUS POWERS--
--YOU'RE A MENACE! IF YOU KEEP RUNNING ALL OVER THE PLANET ACTING LIKE GOD--
--EVEN MORE PEOPLE WILL WIND UP DEAD!
N-NO... I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
THOSE MEN CAN'T BE DEAD!
THEY CAN'T!
WHOOSH
:EHHF!:
IT'S TRUE, KENT...
...YOU'VE LOST YOUR PERSPECTIVE!

YOU MANIAC! YOU COULD'VE SHATTERED EVERY BONE IN HIS BODY!
DO YOU CARE? DO YOU CHECK HIM OUT WITH YOUR X-RAY VISION?
I WAS CAREFUL! I ALWAYS AM WHEN I--
LIKE WHEN YOU SANK THAT SUBMARINE? LIKE WHEN YOU KILLED J'ONN?
I DIDN'T WANT TO DO THIS! NEVER WANTED TO DO THE WORLD'S DIRTY WORK!
BUT IF I DON'T... THE WORLD WILL NEVER GET A SECOND CHANCE!
BATMANNN... BRUCE... YOU CAN'T...
DON'T--! DON'T TALK TO ME!

M... HAVE TO PROMISE ME... LANA AND MY MOTHER... TAKE CARE OF THEM...
I WILL, CLARK. I WILL.
GOD, I'M SORRY. SO... SO... SORRY...
LOISSS...
IT NEVER SHOULD'VE COME TO THIS.
HE DESERVED SO MUCH MORE. MAKES ME WONDER WHO THEY'LL SEND AFTER ME WHEN MY TIME COMES.
YOU DID THE RIGHT THING, BRUCE
NO.
THIS CAN NEVER BE CALLED "RIGHT."
NEVER.


I WAS WRONG.
SUPERMAN DOES NOT BECOME MONARCH.
STILL, CONSIDERING HIS FUTURE, I HARDLY GIVES CAUSE TO REJOICE
CLARK, IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
YEAH... FINE.
JUST A WEIRD FEELING THERE FOR A SECOND YOU KNOW THE OLD EXPRESSION...
"I FEELS LIKE SOMEBODY STEPPED ON MY GRAVE"?
C'MON LET'S GET YOU INTO WORK BEFORE FOSWELL GOES ON THE WARPATH.
I HAVE SEEN NOTHING THAT COMFORTS ME. ONLY THE GRIM FUTURE OF A MAN WHO MIGHT ONE DAY OPPOSE MONARCH
YET A MAN WITH THE POWER TO TAKE A SUPERMAN'S LIFE COULD GROW EVEN STRONGER.
COULD BATMAN BE THE ONE I SEEK? THE ONE WHO BECOMES THE DARK FORCE MONARCH?
I MUST FIND OUT. FOR MONARCH'S CREATION MUST BE PREVENTED...
WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME

DON'T MISS BATMAN ANNUAL #1 IS ON SALE NEXT WEEK FOR THE NEXT CHAPTER IN WAVERIDER'S QUEST FOR THE MONARCH!


SUPERMAN
CARLSBAD CAVERNS, NEW MEXICO ONE M.L.E UNDERGROUND.
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
SO! I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING SKITTERING AROUND DOWN HERE!
IT IS THE ONE HUMANS CALL SUPERMAN!
WE CAN SEE WHO IT IS, FOOL! KILL HIM!

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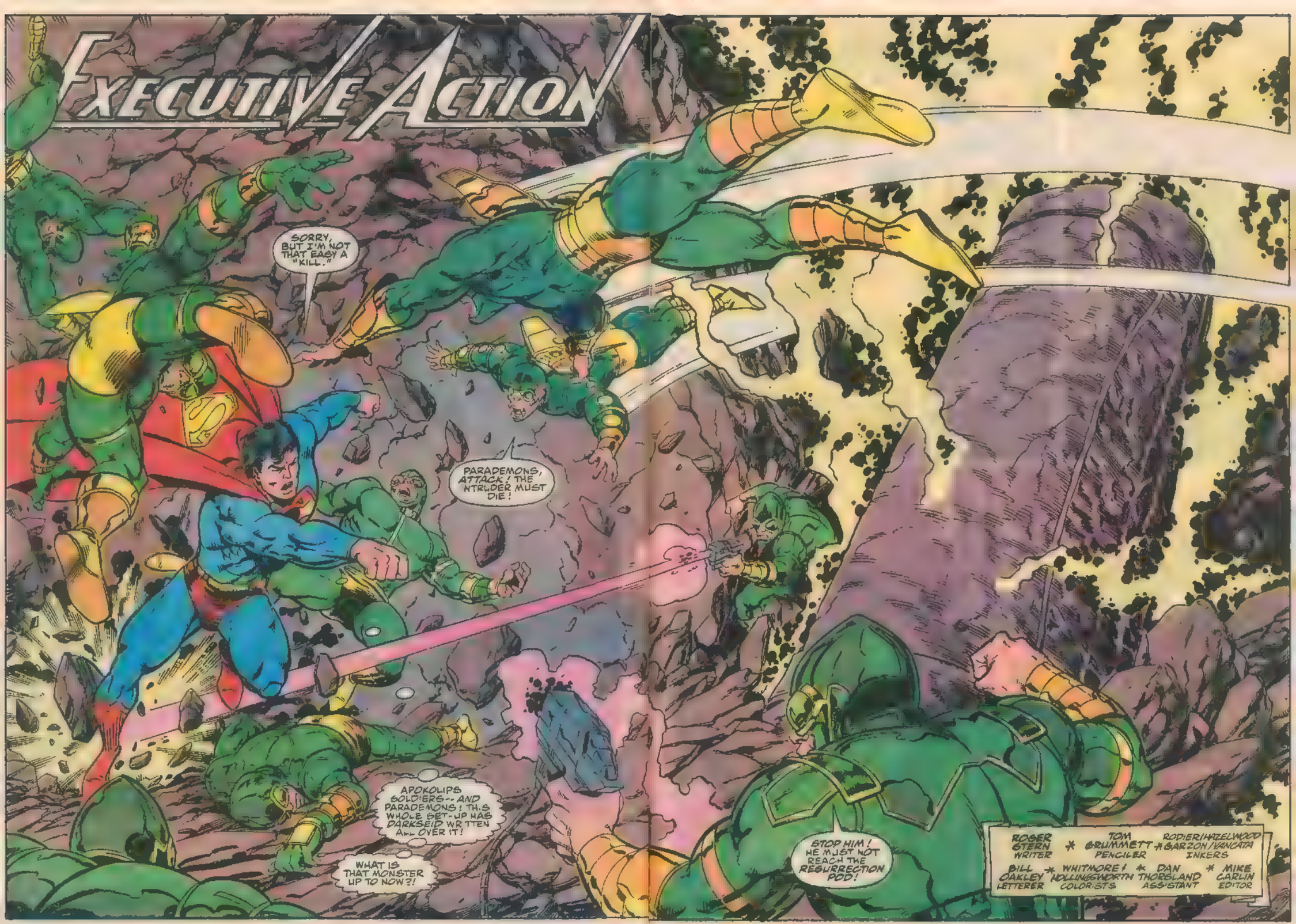
EXECUTIVE ACTION
SORRY, BUT I'M NOT THAT EASY A "KILL."
PARADEMONS, ATTACK! THE INTRUDER MUST DIE!
APOKOLIPS SOLDIERS -- AND PARADEMONS! THIS WHOLE SET-UP HAS DARKSEID WRITTEN ALL OVER IT!
WHAT IS THAT MONSTER UP TO NOW?!
STOP HIM! HE MUST NOT REACH THE RESURRECTION POD!
ROGER STERN WRITER
TOM GRUMMETT PENCILER
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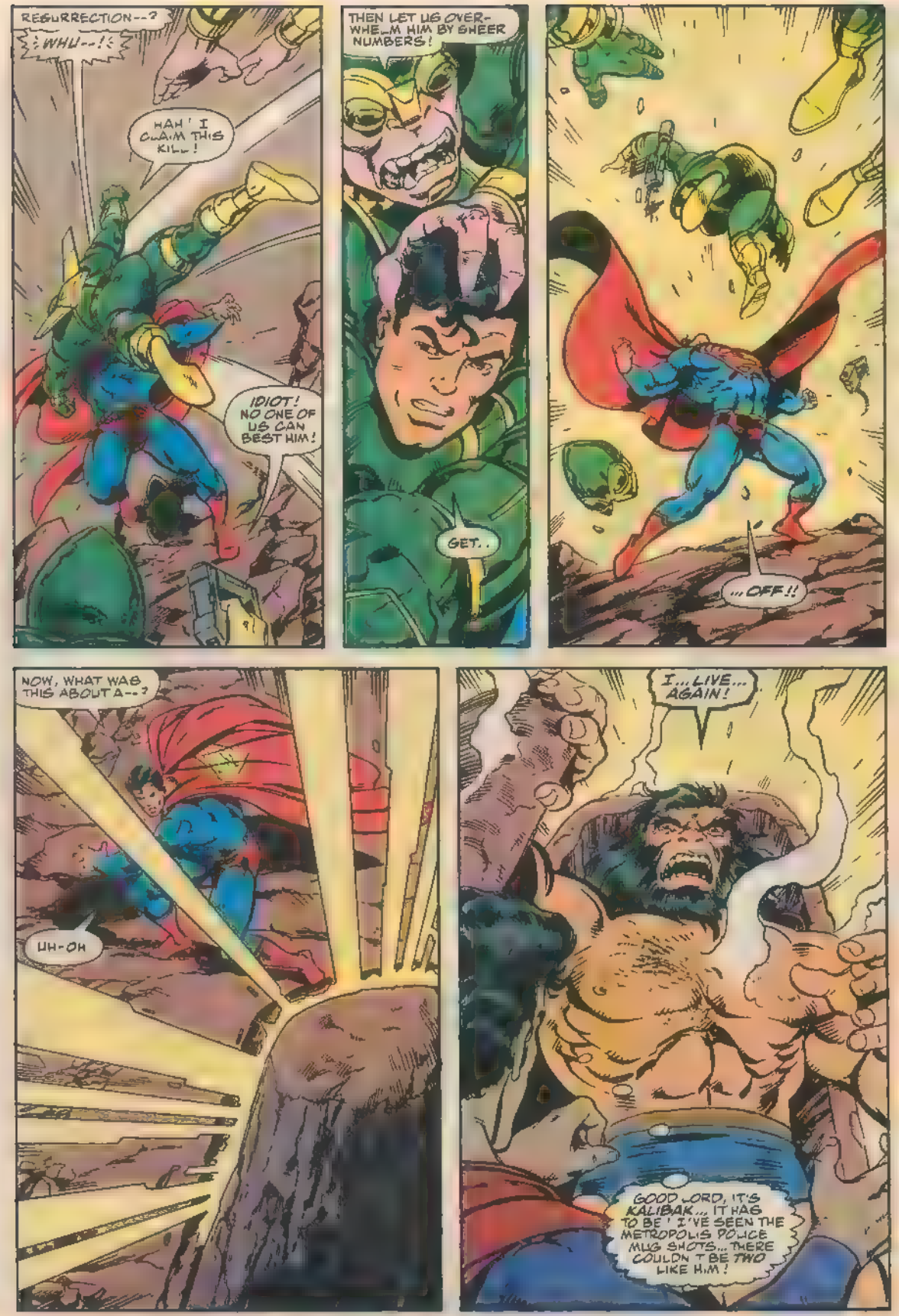
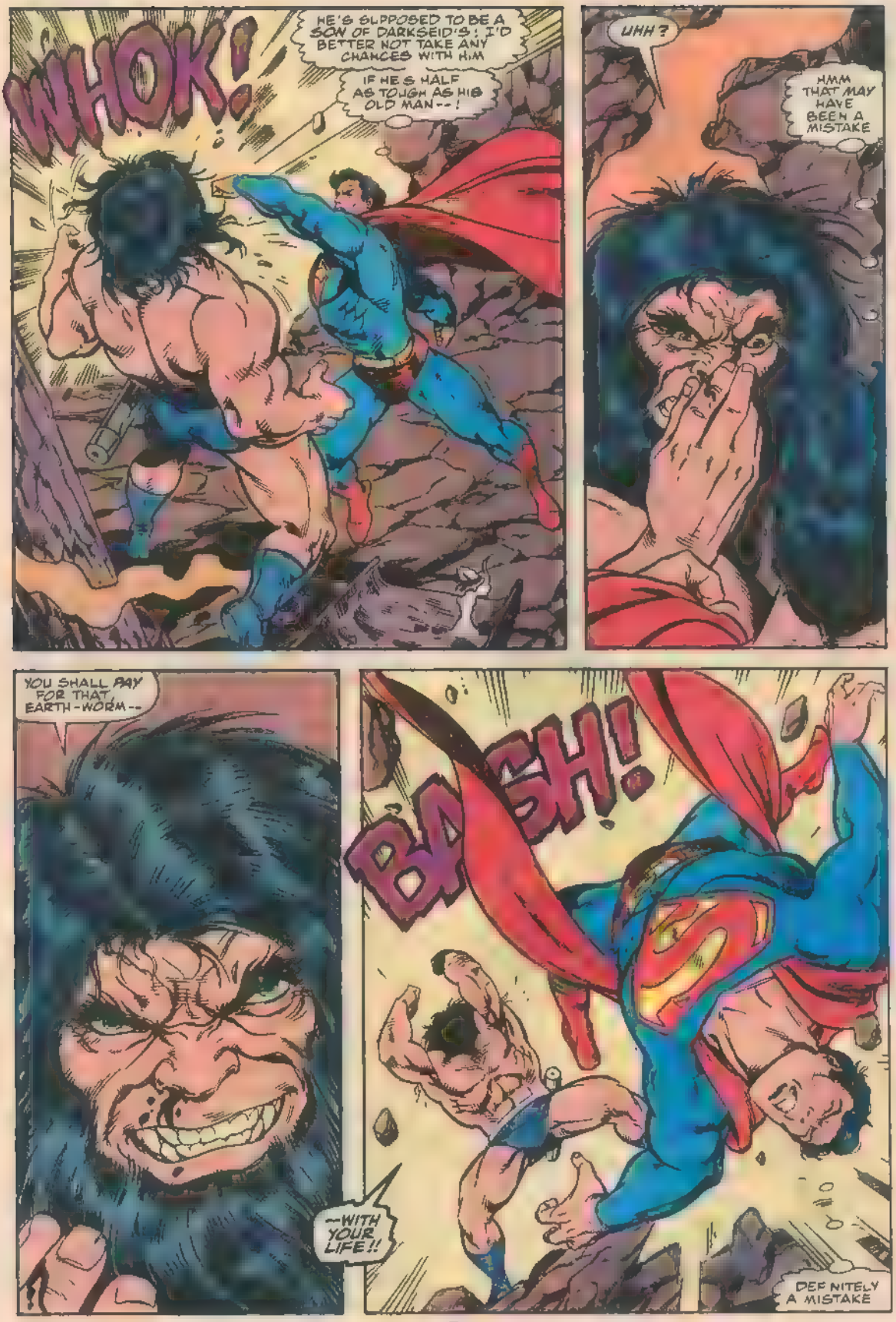
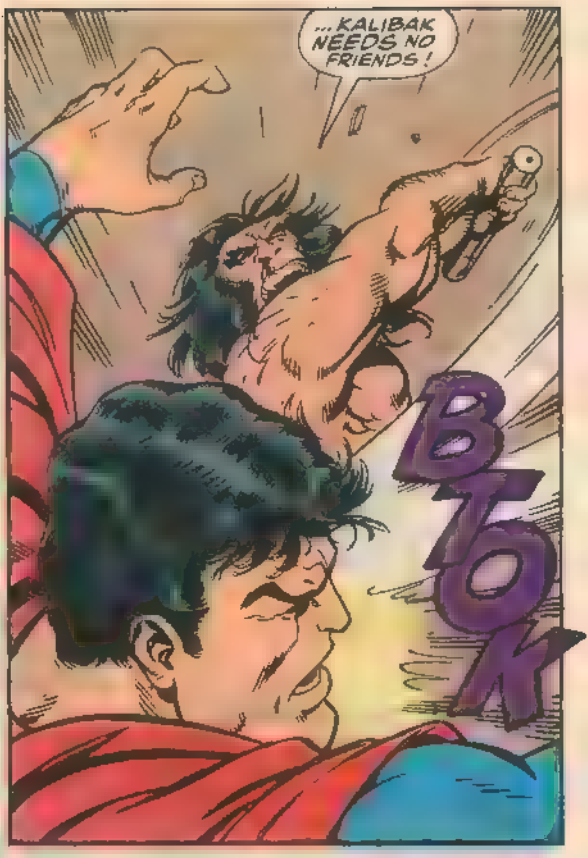
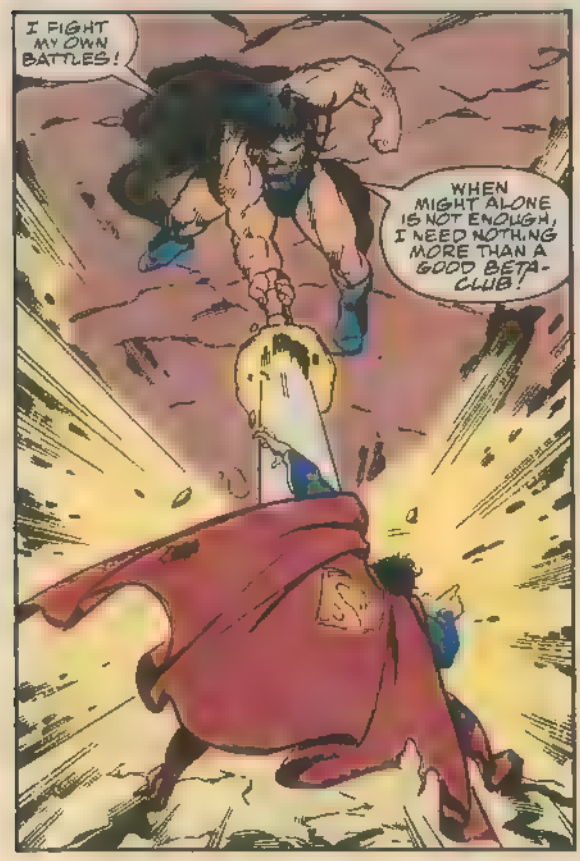

RESURRECTION--?
WHU--!
HAH! I CLAIM THIS KILL!
IDIOT! NO ONE OF US CAN BEST HIM!
THEN LET US OVER-WHELM HIM BY SHEER NUMBERS!
GET..
...OFF!!
NOW, WHAT WAS THIS ABOUT A--?
UH-OH
I...LIVE... AGAIN!
GOOD LORD, IT'S KALIBAK... IT HAS TO BE! I'VE SEEN THE METROPOLIS POLICE MUG SHOTS... THERE COULDN'T BE TWO LIKE HIM!

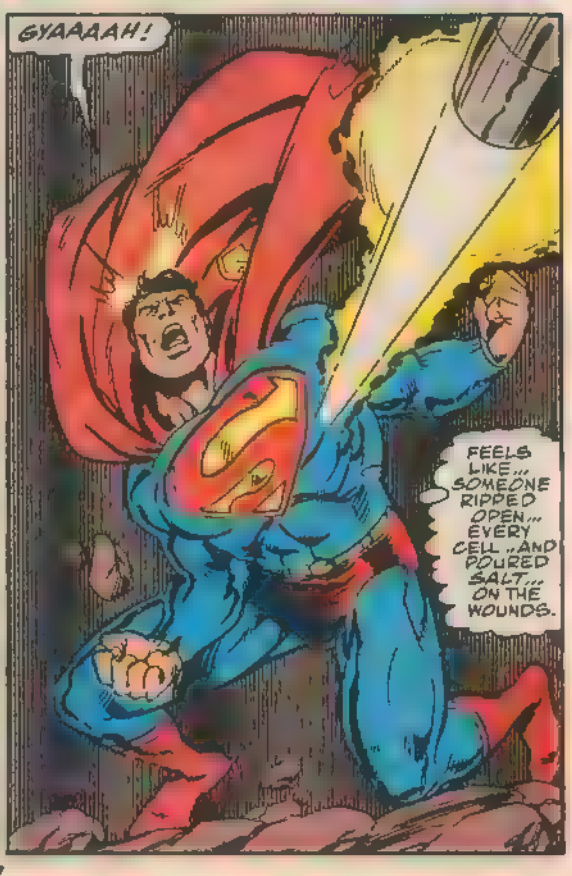

WHOK!
HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A SON OF DARKSEID'S! I'D BETTER NOT TAKE ANY CHANCES WITH HIM
IF HE'S HALF AS TOUGH AS HIS OLD MAN--!
UHH?
HMM THAT MAY HAVE BEEN A MISTAKE
YOU SHALL PAY FOR THAT, EARTH-WORM--
BA SH!
--WITH YOUR LIFE!!
DEFINITELY A MISTAKE

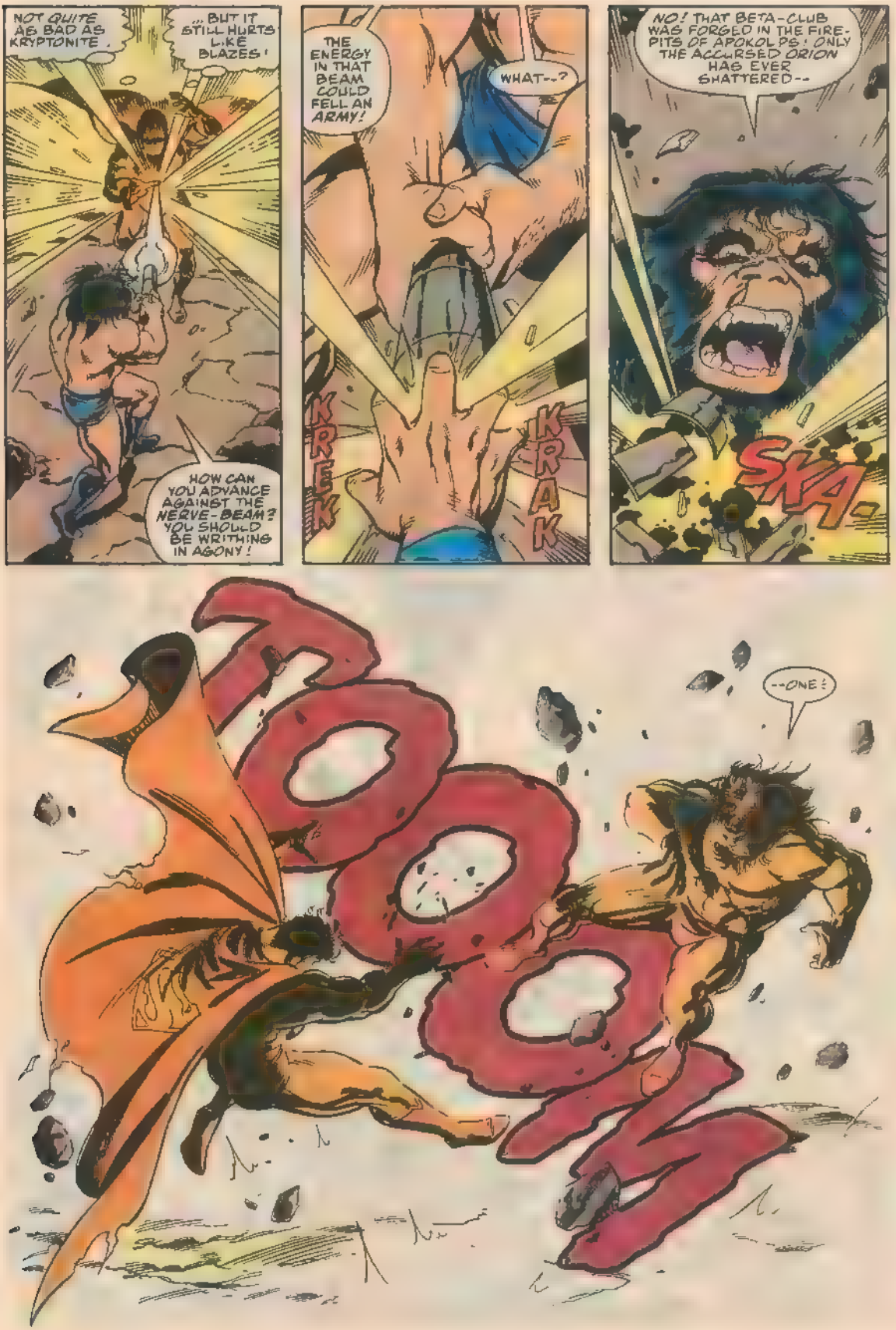
I SHALL-- UNNGH!
I KNEW WHO HE WAS-- WHAT HE WAS--
--AND STILL I UNDERESTIMATED HIM. I CAN'T AFFORD ANOTHER SUCH MISTAKE! THE SONS OF DARKSEID ARE PRACTICALLY POWER INCARNATE--
--I CAN'T LET UP FOR EVEN A MOMENT!
IT--IT IS UNTHINKABLE! THIS SUPERMAN NOT ONLY WITHSTANDS KALIBAK'S BLOWS, HE RESPONDS IN KIND!
IF THIS BATTLE CONTINUES, IT WILL DESTROY THIS CHAMBER... AND US AS WELL!
LISTEN, DO YOU HEAR--?
SCREEEEEE
A BOOM TUBE! WE ARE SAVED!
WAIT! THAT PORTAL CAN ONLY LEAD TO APOKOLIPS! IF IT DELIVERS US TO DARKSEID, HE WILL SHOW NO MERCY!
ON APOKOLIPS THERE MAY YET BE A CHANCE, HOWEVER SLIM, OF EVADING DARKSEID'S WRATH.
YES, AND IF WE STAY HERE, WE SURELY ARE DOOMED.

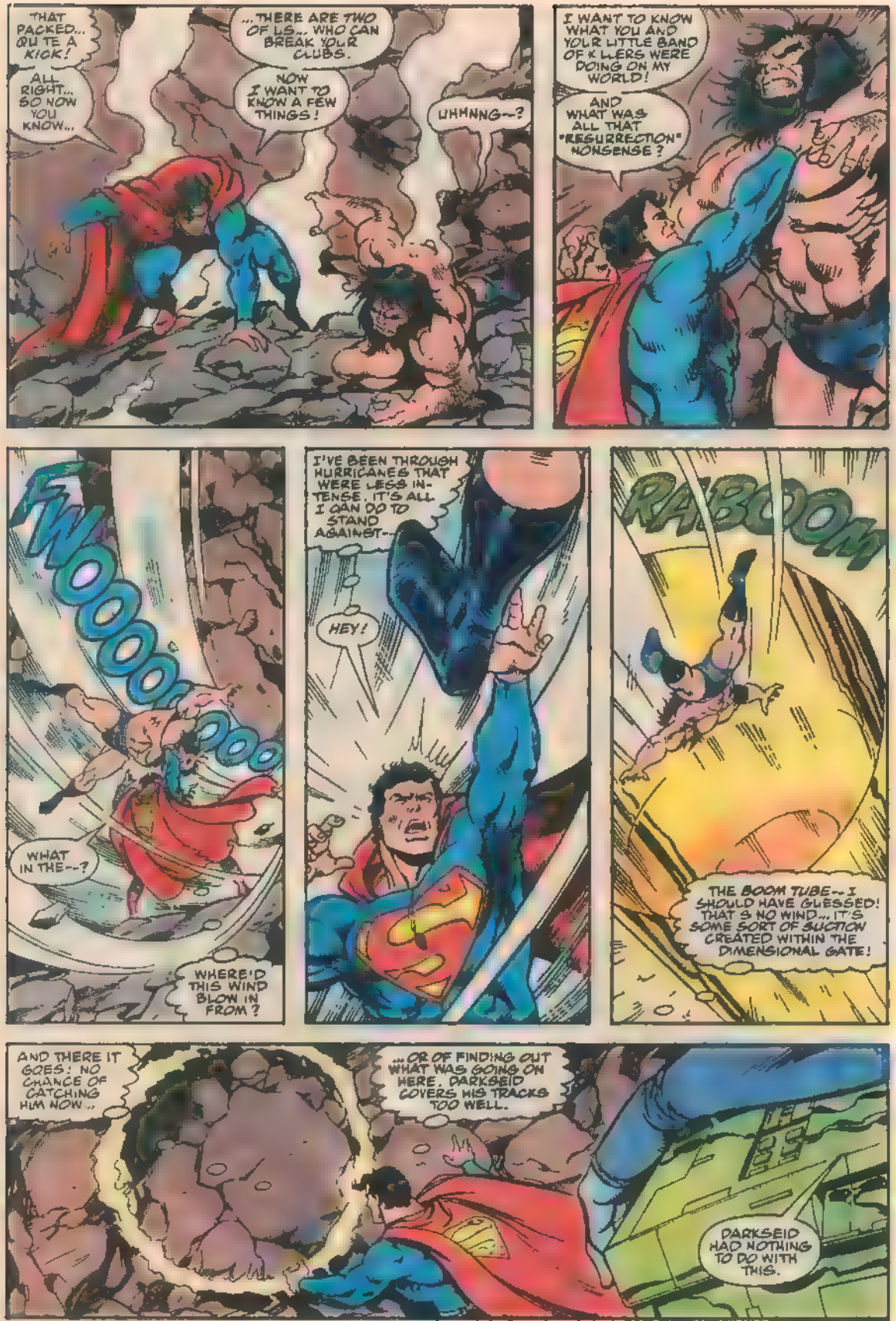
GIVE IT UP, KALIBAK! LOOK, EVEN YOUR FRIENDS ARE DESERTING YOU!
KALIBAK HAS NO FRIENDS...

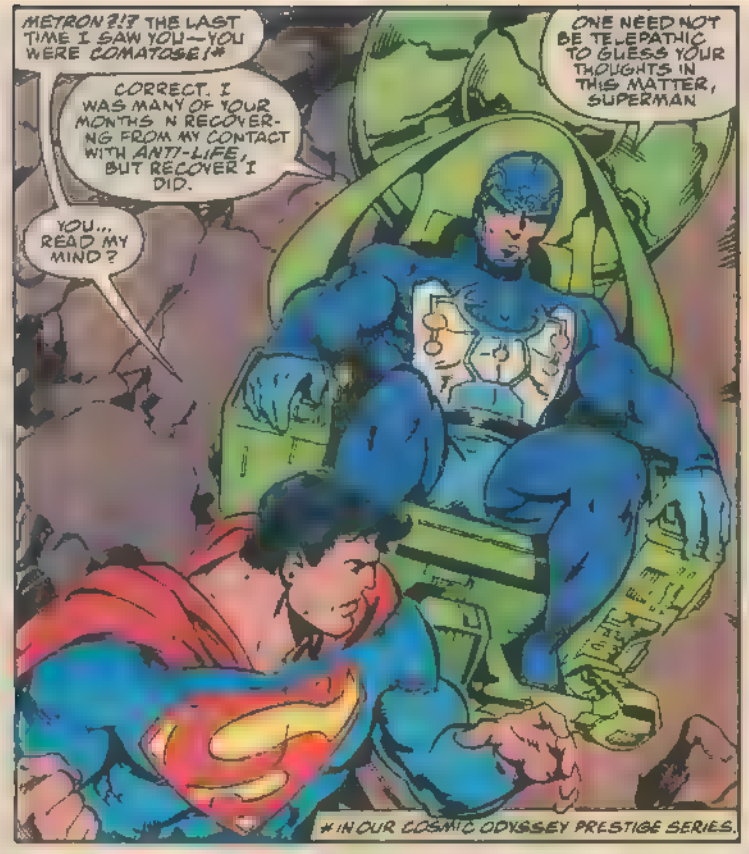

...KALIBAK NEEDS NO FRIENDS!
BTOK

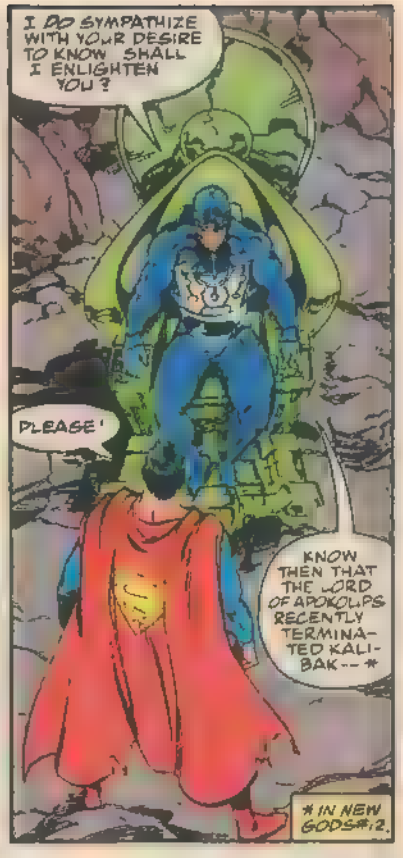

I FIGHT MY OWN BATTLES!
WHEN MIGHT ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH, I NEED NOTHING MORE THAN A GOOD BETA-CLUB!


GYAAAAH!
FEELS LIKE... SOMEONE RIPPED OPEN... EVERY CELL ..AND POURED SALT... ON THE WOUNDS.

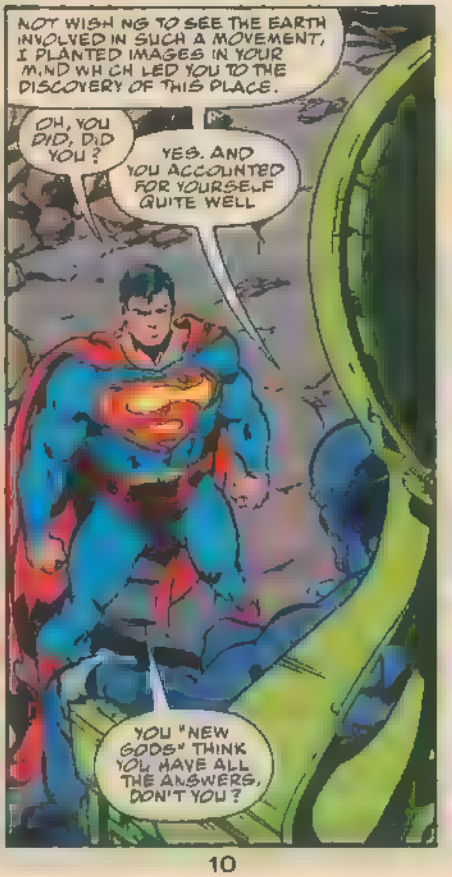

NOT QUITE AS BAD AS KRYPTONITE...
...BUT IT STILL HURTS LIKE BLAZES!
HOW CAN YOU ADVANCE AGAINST THE NERVE-BEAM? YOU SHOULD BE WRITHING IN AGONY!
THE ENERGY IN THAT BEAM COULD FELL AN ARMY!
WHAT--?
KREK
KRAK
NO! THAT BETA-CLUB WAS FORGED IN THE FIRE-PITS OF APOKOLPS! ONLY THE ACCURSED ORION HAS EVER SHATTERED--
SKA-
--ONE!
BOOM

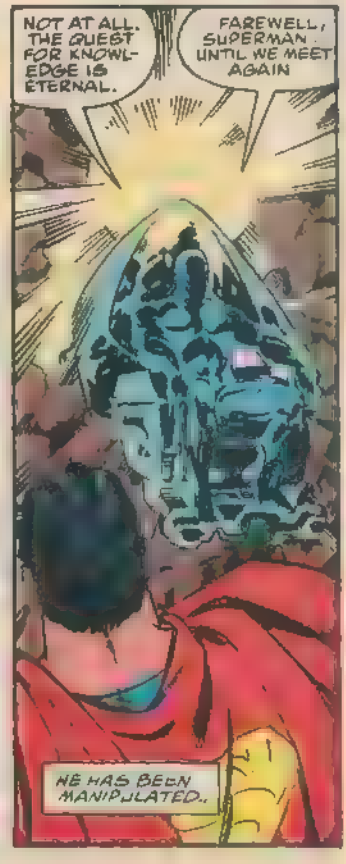

THAT PACKED... QU TE A KICK!
ALL RIGHT... SO NOW YOU KNOW...
...THERE ARE TWO OF US... WHO CAN BREAK YOUR CLUBS.
NOW I WANT TO KNOW A FEW THINGS!
UHHNNG--?
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU AND YOUR LITTLE BAND OF K LLERS WERE DOING ON MY WORLD!
AND WHAT WAS ALL THAT "RESURRECTION" NONSENSE?
FWOOOOOOO
WHAT IN THE--?
WHERE'D THIS WIND BLOW IN FROM?
I'VE BEEN THROUGH HURRICANES THAT WERE LESS IN-TENSE. IT'S ALL I CAN DO TO STAND AGAINST--
HEY!
RAABOOM
THE BOOM TUBE-- I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED! THAT'S NO WIND... IT'S SOME SORT OF SUCTION CREATED WITHIN THE DIMENSIONAL GATE!
AND THERE IT GOES! NO CHANCE OF CATCHING HIM NOW...
...OR OF FIND!NG OUT WHAT WAS GOING ON HERE. DARKSEID COVERS HIS TRACKS TOO WELL.
DARKSEID HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.

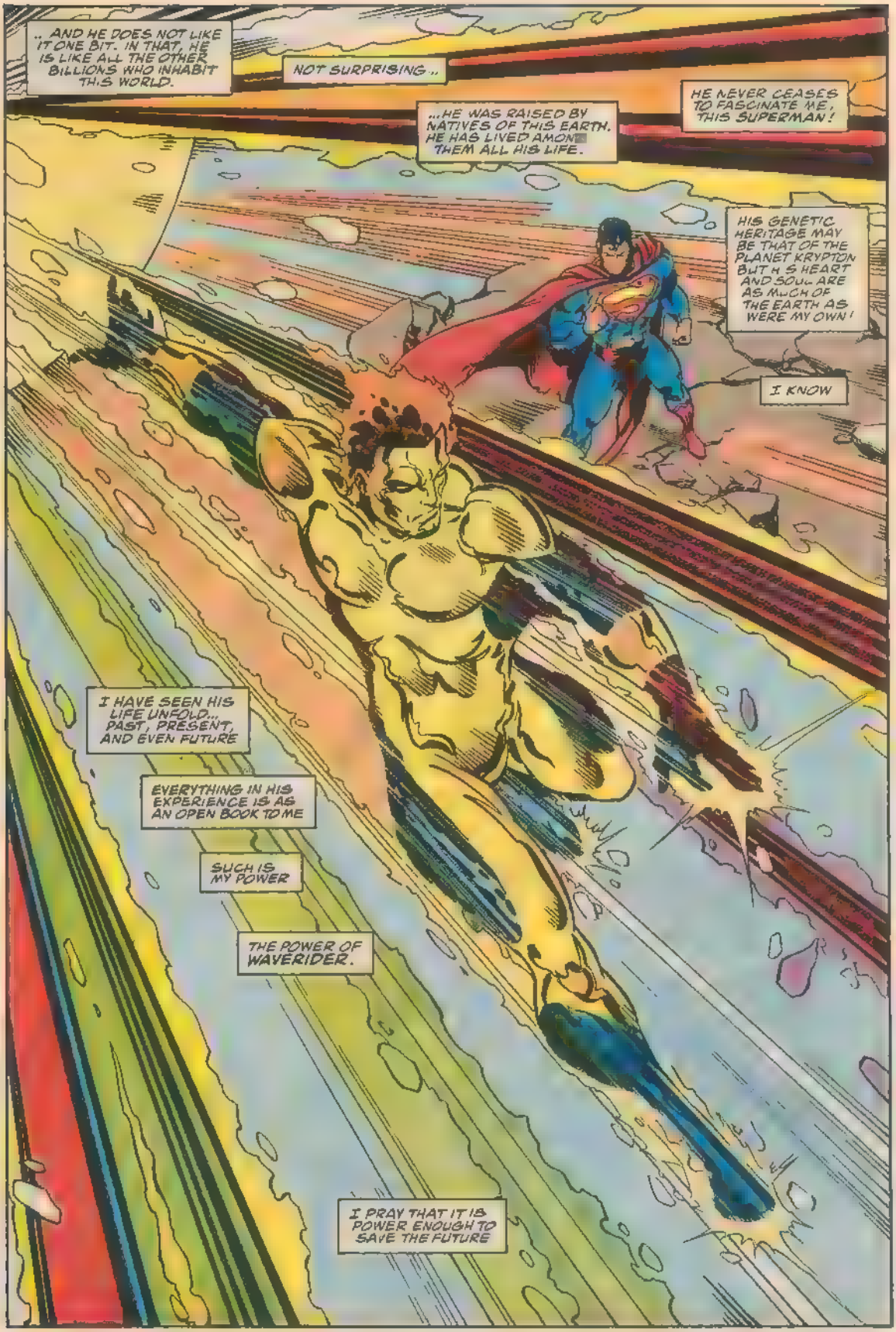

METRON?!? THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU—YOU WERE COMATOSE!*
CORRECT. I WAS MANY OF YOUR MONTHS N RECOVERING FROM MY CONTACT WITH ANTI-LIFE, BUT RECOVER I DID.
YOU... READ MY MIND?
ONE NEED NOT BE TELEPATHIC TO GUESS YOUR THOUGHTS IN THIS MATTER, SUPERMAN
* IN OUR COSMIC ODYSSEY PRESTIGE SERIES.

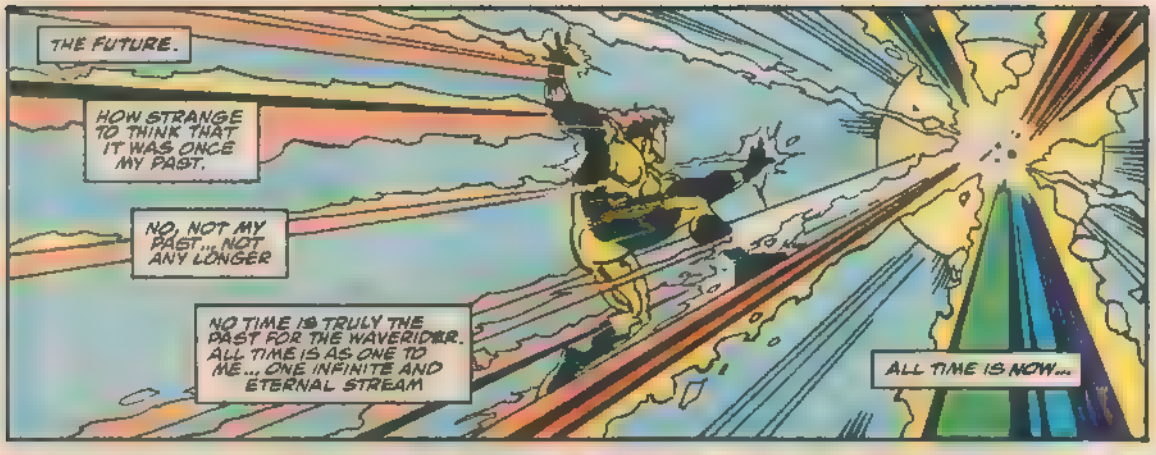

I DO SYMPATHIZE WITH YOUR DESIRE TO KNOW SHALL I ENLIGHTEN YOU?
PLEASE!
KNOW THEN THAT THE LORD OF APOKOLIPS RECENTLY TERMINATED KALIBAK--*
* IN NEW GODS #2.

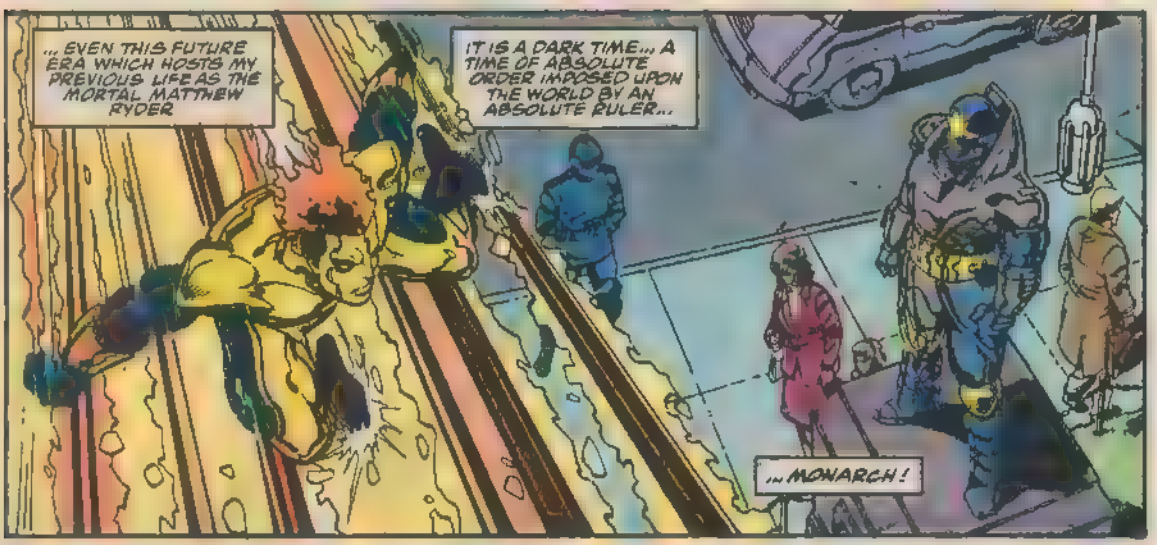
--AND PLACED THE REMAINS N THAT POD TO BEGIN THE RESURRECTION PROCESS
DARKSEID IS CAPABLE OF RETURNING THE DEAD TO LIFE?!
THE DEAD OF OUR RACE... UNDER THE PROPER CIRCUMSTANCES.. YES
AT ANY RATE, SOME UNDERLINGS OF KAL BAK S STOLE THE POD AND BROUGHT T HERE IN HOPES OF RAISING A LEADER TO DEPOSE DARKSEID.

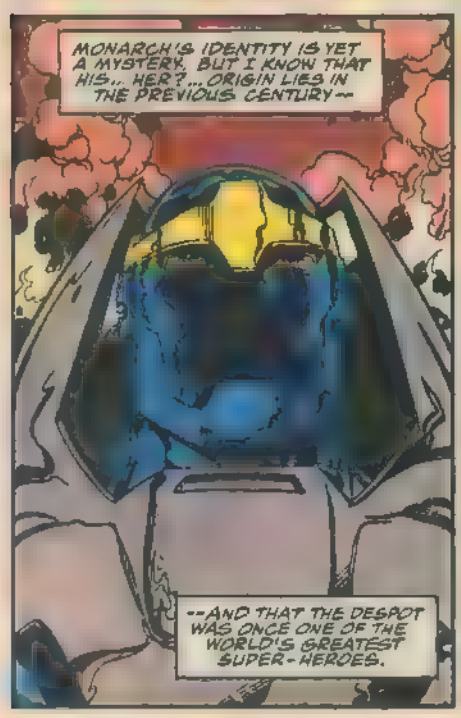

NOT WISH NG TO SEE THE EARTH INVOLVED IN SUCH A MOVEMENT, I PLANTED IMAGES IN YOUR MIND WH CH LED YOU TO THE DISCOVERY OF THIS PLACE.
OH, YOU DID, DID YOU?
YES. AND YOU ACCOUNTED FOR YOURSELF QUITE WELL
YOU "NEW GODS" THINK YOU HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS, DON'T YOU?


NOT AT ALL. THE QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE IS ETERNAL.
FAREWELL, SUPERMAN. UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN
HE HAS BEEN MANIPULATED..

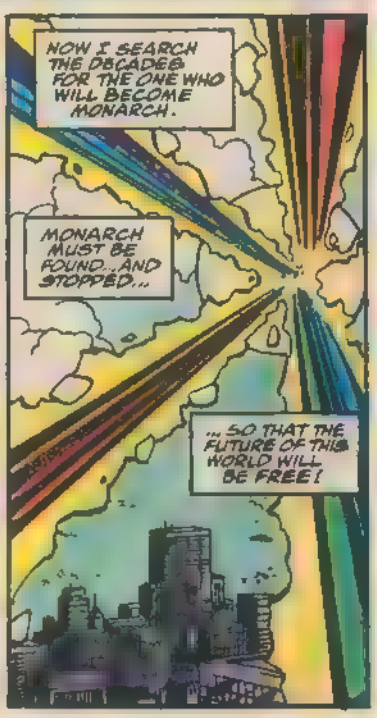

.. AND HE DOES NOT LIKE IT ONE BIT. IN THAT, HE IS LIKE ALL THE OTHER BILLIONS WHO INHABIT THIS WORLD.
NOT SURPRISING ..
...HE WAS RAISED BY NATIVES OF THIS EARTH. HE HAS LIVED AMONG THEM ALL HIS LIFE.
HE NEVER CEASES TO FASCINATE ME, THIS SUPERMAN!
HIS GENETIC HERITAGE MAY BE THAT OF THE PLANET KRYPTON BUT H S HEART AND SOUL ARE AS MUCH OF THE EARTH AS WERE MY OWN!
I KNOW
I HAVE SEEN HIS LIFE UNFOLD... PAST, PRESENT, AND EVEN FUTURE
EVERYTHING IN HIS EXPERIENCE IS AS AN OPEN BOOK TO ME
SUCH IS MY POWER
THE POWER OF WAVERIDER.
I PRAY THAT IT IS POWER ENOUGH TO SAVE THE FUTURE


THE FUTURE.
HOW STRANGE TO THINK THAT IT WAS ONCE MY PAST.
NO, NOT MY PAST... NOT ANY LONGER
NO TIME IS TRULY THE PAST FOR THE WAVERIDER. ALL TIME IS AS ONE TO ME... ONE INFINITE AND ETERNAL STREAM
ALL TIME IS NOW...


... EVEN THIS FUTURE ERA WHICH HOSTS MY PREVIOUS LIFE AS THE MORTAL MATTHEW RYDER
IT IS A DARK TIME... A TIME OF ABSOLUTE ORDER IMPOSED UPON THE WORLD BY AN ABSOLUTE RULER...
... MONARCH!

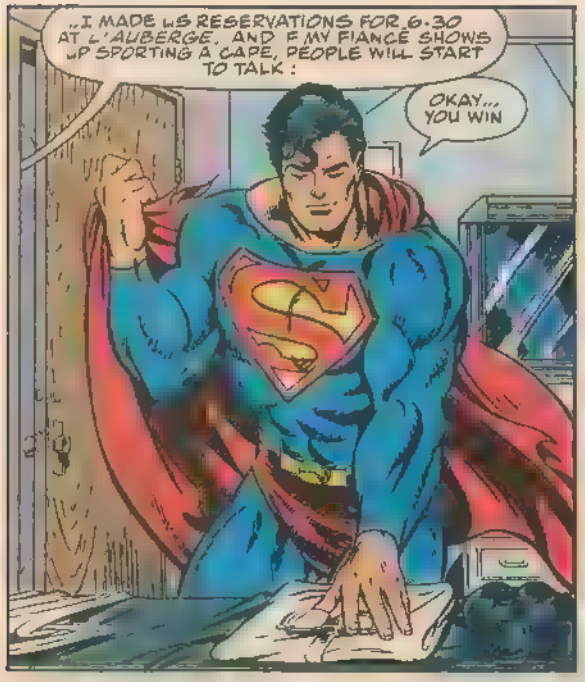

MONARCH'S IDENTITY IS YET A MYSTERY. BUT I KNOW THAT HIS... HER?... ORIGIN LIES IN THE PREVIOUS CENTURY--
--AND THAT THE DESPOT WAS ONCE ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUPER-HEROES.

THAT IS WHY I SACRIFICED MY HUMANITY TO THE EXPERIMENT...
... WHY I ALLOWED MATT RYDER'S BODY TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO THE SENTIENT ENERGY OF THE WAVERIDER.

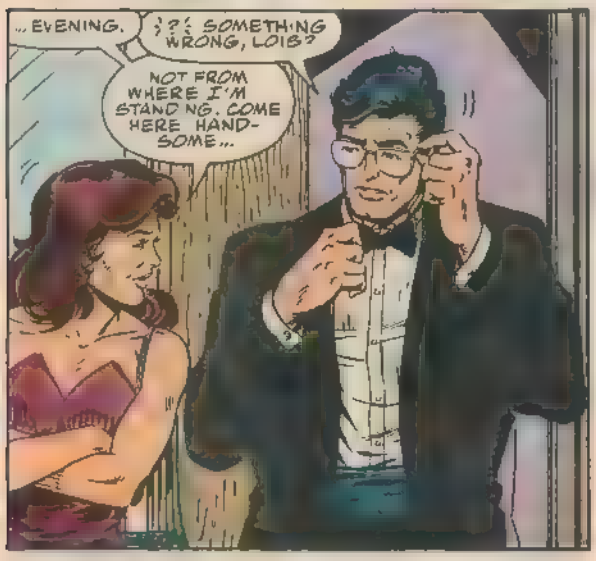

NOW I SEARCH THE DECADES FOR THE ONE WHO WILL BECOME MONARCH.
MONARCH MUST BE FOUND... AND STOPPED...
... SO THAT THE FUTURE OF THIS WORLD WILL BE FREE!

WHY, THEN, DO I CONTINUALLY FIND MYSELF DRAWN TO SUPERMAN?
OF ALL THE EARTH'S SUPER-HEROES, HE IS ARGUABLY THE MIGHTIEST..
...BUT SURELY HE CANNOT BE THE ONE WHO BECOMES THE MONARCH!
I HAVE ALREADY MADE CONTACT ONCE WITH SUPERMAN.. APPROACHING HIM INVISIBLY AND MERGING WITH HIS TEMPORAL FLOW.
...LIVING THROUGH HIS FUTURE TIMELINE
A SORRY TIME IT IS. IN THAT FUTURE, SUPERMAN WILL BECOME UNBALANCED AFTER FAILING TO STOP THE NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION OF METROPOLIS...
..AND ULTIMATELY MUST BE KILLED BY THE BATMAN.*
* AS SEEN IN SUPERMAN ANNUAL #3.
AND YET, I EXPERIENCED NONE OF THAT FUTURE DURING MY CONTACT WITH THE BATMAN. *
* IN BATMAN ANNUAL #15
PERHAPS I SHOULD STUDY FURTHER THIS MAN OF STEEL.
OF ALL THE NERVE..

... HE COULD'VE AT LEAST ASKED FOR MY HELP! THERE MUST BE A DOZEN WAYS METRON COULD HAVE CONTACTED ME.
I CAN SEE WHY YOU'RE UPSET, CLARK. WHY WOULD HE DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
... BUT NO! HE HAD TO PLAY HIS MIND GAMES... LURING ME DOWN TO NEW MEXICO LIKE SOME FISH ON A LINE
WHO KNOWS? WHO CARES?!
OF ALL THE ARROGANT ... TO THINK -- AFTER ALL THE TIMES I'VE HELPED METRON'S PEOPLE OVER THE YEARS -- THAT HE'D TREAT ME LIKE THAT!
I TELL YOU, LOIS, I AM GETTING JUST A LITTLE SICK AND TIRED OF ALL THESE ALIENS BUTTING IN!
CAREFUL, DEAR! YOU'RE AN ALIEN TOO, AFTER ALL!
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!
I KNOW.
BUT I ALSO KNOW THAT IT'S A WASTE OF TIME TO DWELL ON SUCH THINGS..
ESPECIALLY WHEN THAT TIME COULD BE SPENT IN MUCH BETTER WAYS!
SO MARCH YOURSELF INTO THAT BEDROOM AND GET READY!
BUT--!
NO "BUTS"..

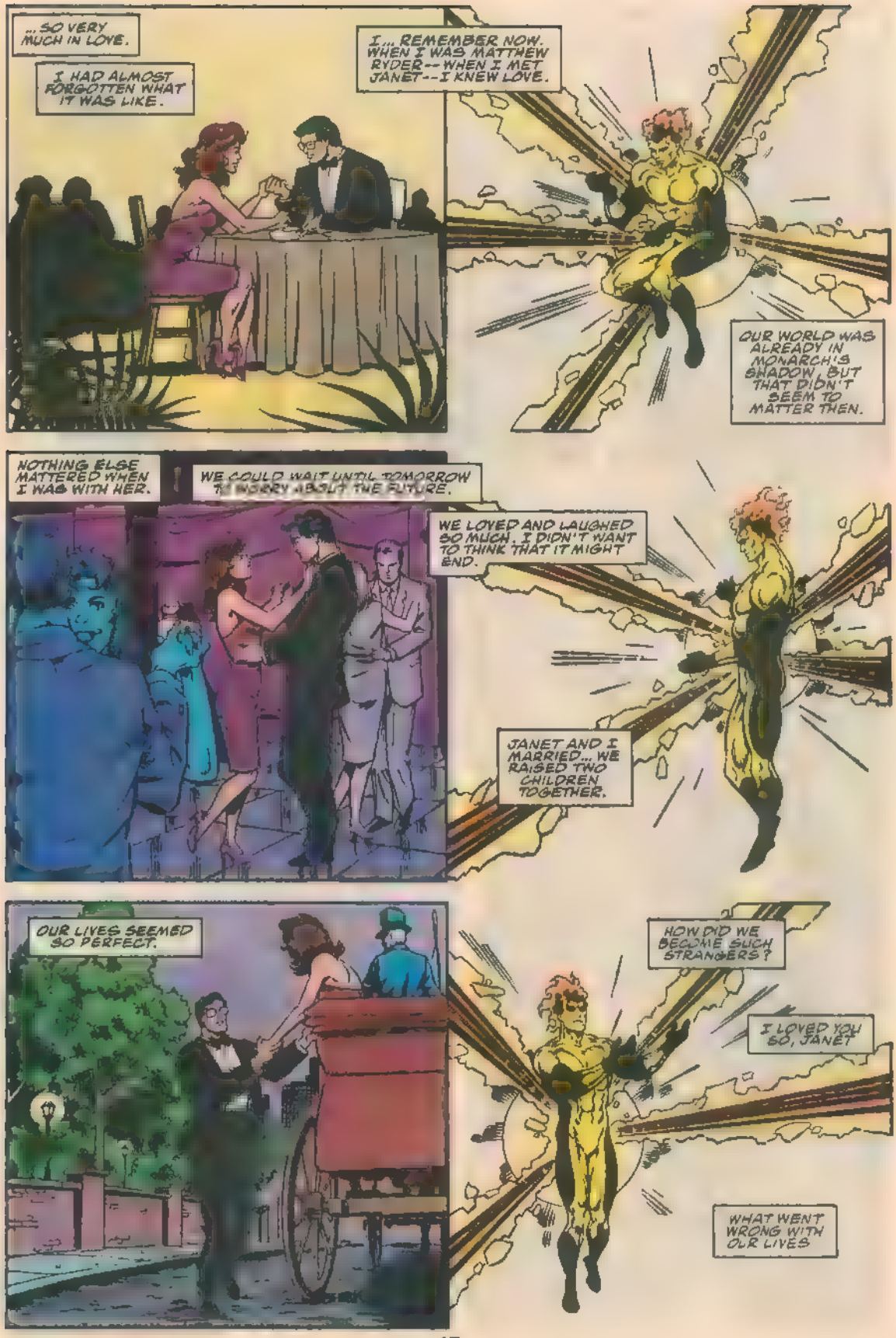

..I MADE US RESERVATIONS FOR 6:30 AT L'AUBERGE. AND IF MY FIANCE SHOWS UP SPORTING A CAPE, PEOPLE WILL START TO TALK!
OKAY... YOU WIN

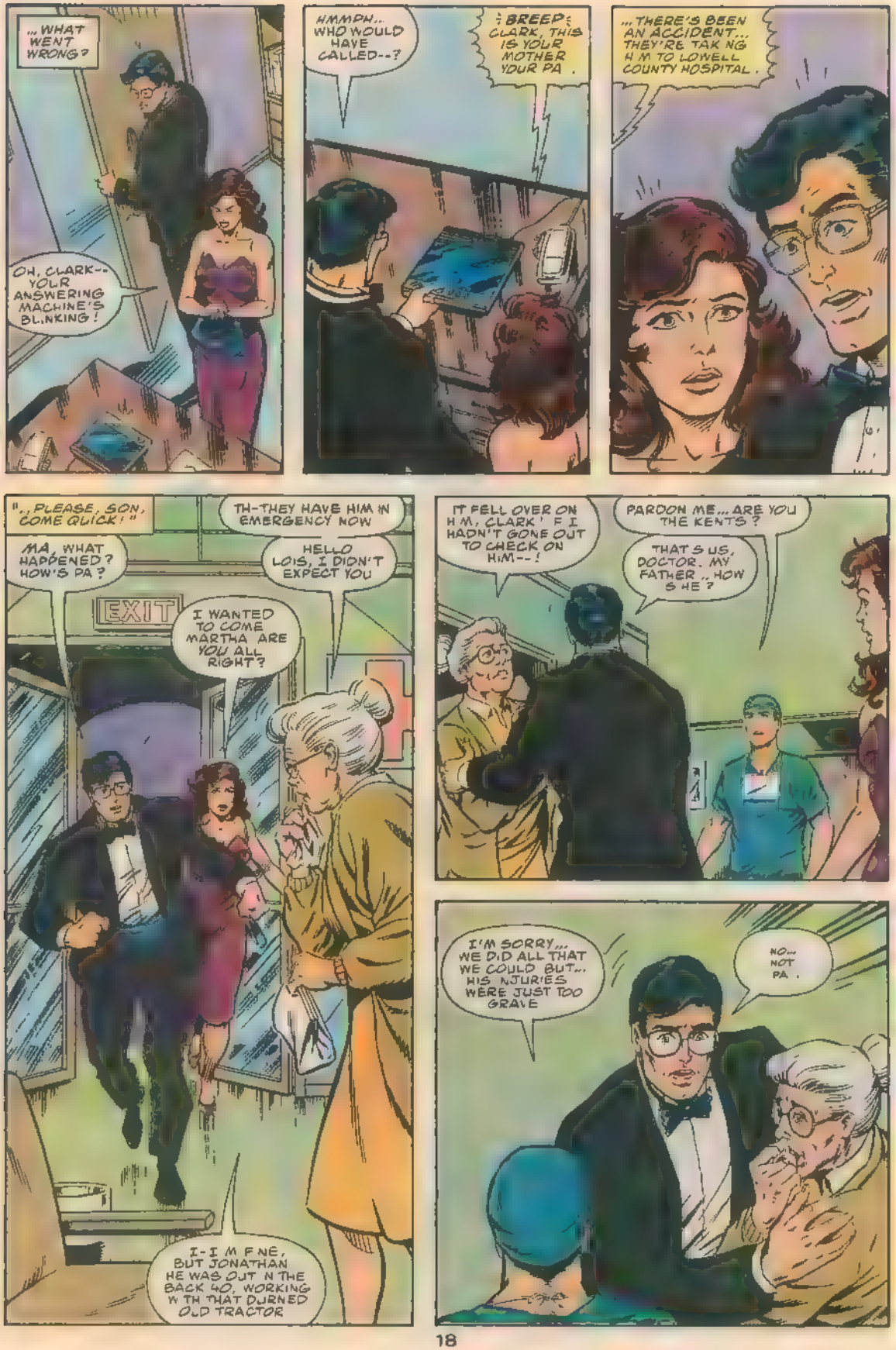
BUT I STILL RESENT HAVING BEEN USED AS A PAWN!
WHO WOULDN'T?
YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO BE ANGRY. JUST DON'T LET IT SPOIL YOUR WHOLE.

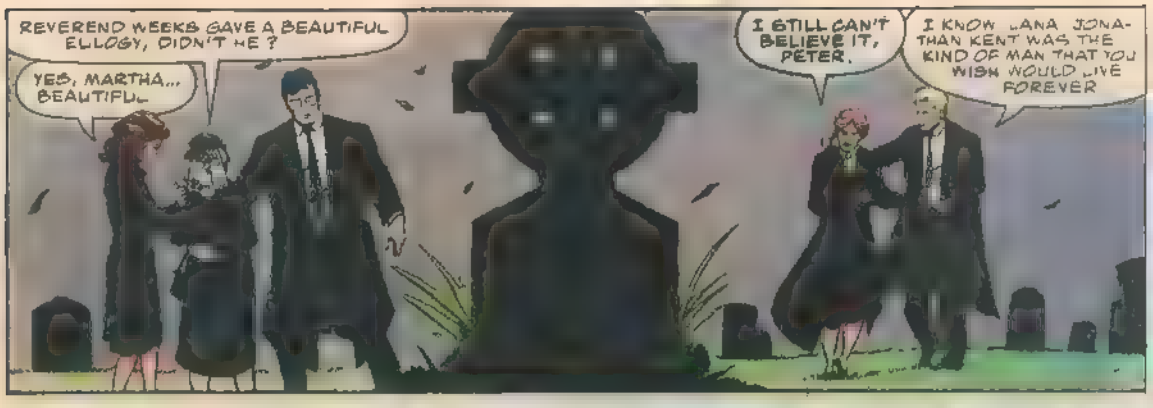

..EVENING.
?! SOMETHING WRONG, LOIS?
NOT FROM WHERE I'M STANDING. COME HERE HANDSOME...

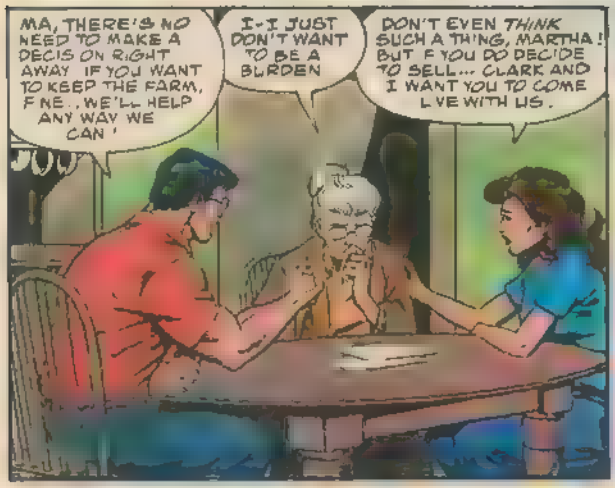
I ALMOST HATE TO SHARE YOU WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
...BUT A GOOD MEAL AND A LITTLE FUN WILL DO WONDERS FOR YOUR PSYCHE, MR KENT
I FEEL BETTER ALREADY, MS. LANE.
JUST ANOTHER HAPPY COUPLE OUT FOR A NIGHT ON THE TOWN

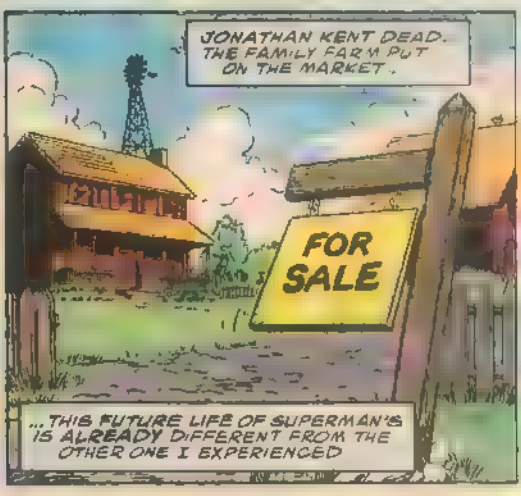
...NONE WOULD EVER SUSPECT THAT ONE OF THEM IS THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF A DISTANT, DEAD PLANET.
HOW EXTRAORDINARY THAT THESE TWO— CONCEIVED LIGHT YEARS APART-- SHOULD FALL IN LOVE AND PLAN TO MARRY.
I KNOW THAT THEY CANNOT PERCEIVE ME. STILL, I REGRET THIS INTRUSION.
BUT THE MONARCH-TO-BE MUST BE FOUND.
I MUST MERGE AGAIN WITH SUPERMAN...
...BECOMING ONE WITH ALL THAT HE MAY EXPERIENCE ...FLASHING FORWARD THROUGH HIS FUTURE
WHAT'S WRONG, BABE? YOU LOOKED A LITTLE STRANGE THERE.
HMM? OH... JUST LOST IN THOUGHT, I GUESS.
IT IS MOST ODD. TO FEEL ALIVE ONCE MORE!
AH, BUT HERE WE ARE, MADEMOISELLE ...YOUR PRIVATE CAR!
MERCI, MONSIEUR! CONDUISEZ-MOI A L'AUBERGE S'IL VOUS PLAIT!
THEY ARE SO IN LOVE.

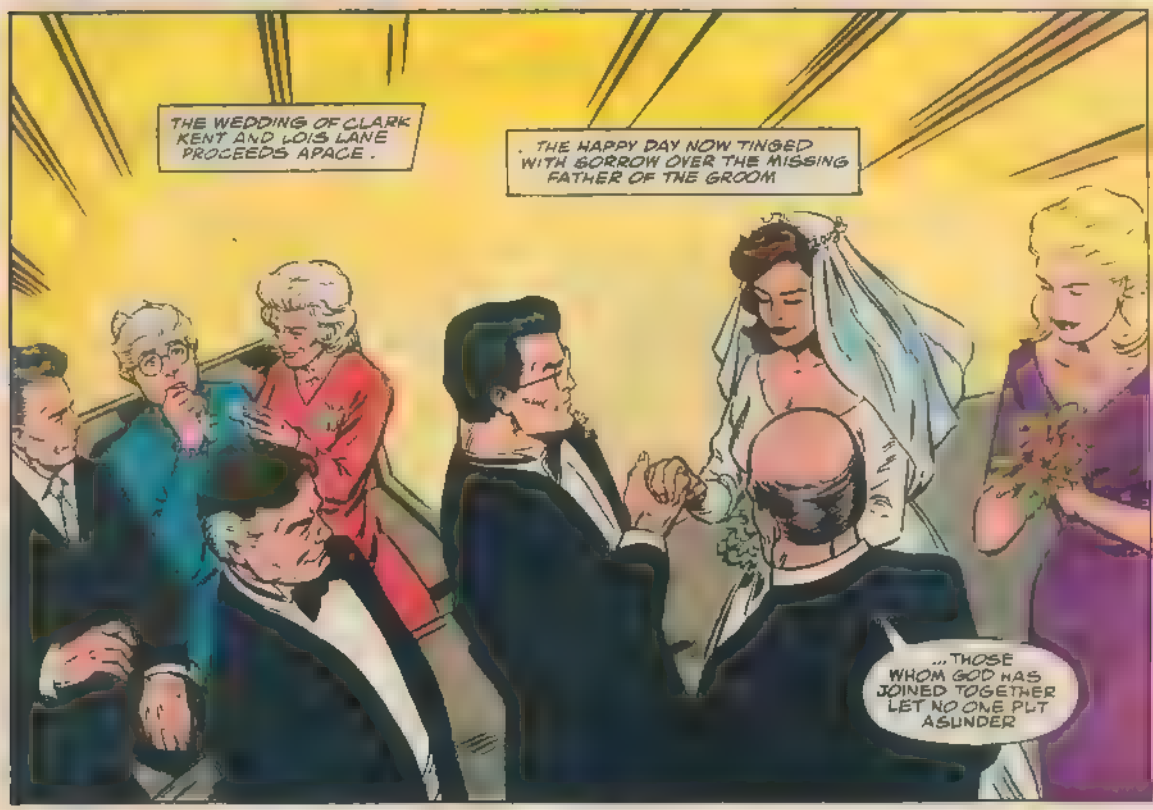

...SO VERY MUCH IN LOVE.
I HAD ALMOST FORGOTTEN WHAT IT WAS LIKE.
I... REMEMBER NOW. WHEN I WAS MATTHEW RYDER--WHEN I MET JANET--I KNEW LOVE.
OUR WORLD WAS ALREADY IN MONARCH'S SHADOW, BUT THAT DIDN'T SEEM TO MATTER THEN.
NOTHING ELSE MATTERED WHEN I WAS WITH HER.
WE COULD WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW TO WORRY ABOUT THE FUTURE.
WE LOVED AND LAUGHED SO MUCH. I DIDN'T WANT TO THINK THAT IT MIGHT END.
JANET AND I MARRIED... WE RAISED TWO CHILDREN TOGETHER.
OUR LIVES SEEMED SO PERFECT.
HOW DID WE BECOME SUCH STRANGERS?
I LOVED YOU SO, JANET
WHAT WENT WRONG WITH OUR LIVES


...WHAT WENT WRONG?
OH, CLARK-- YOUR ANSWERING MACHINE'S BLINKING!
HMMPH... WHO WOULD HAVE CALLED--?
:BREEP: CLARK, THIS IS YOUR MOTHER YOUR PA.
...THERE'S BEEN AN ACCIDENT... THEY'RE TAKING HIM TO LOWELL COUNTY HOSPITAL.
"...PLEASE, SON, COME QUICK!"
TH-THEY HAVE HIM IN EMERGENCY NOW
MA, WHAT HAPPENED? HOW'S PA?
HELLO LOIS, I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU
EXIT
I WANTED TO COME MARTHA ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I-I'M FINE, BUT JONATHAN HE WAS OUT IN THE BACK 40, WORKING WITH THAT DURNED OLD TRACTOR
IT FELL OVER ON HIM, CLARK! IF I HADN'T GONE OUT TO CHECK ON HIM--!
PARDON ME... ARE YOU THE KENTS?
THAT'S US, DOCTOR. MY FATHER... HOW'S HE?
I'M SORRY... WE DID ALL THAT WE COULD BUT... HIS INJURIES WERE JUST TOO GRAVE
NO... NOT PA.


REVEREND WEEKS GAVE A BEAUTIFUL ELLOGY, DIDN'T HE ?
YES, MARTHA... BEAUTIFUL
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT, PETER.
I KNOW LANA JONATHAN KENT WAS THE KIND OF MAN THAT YOU WISH WOULD LIVE FOREVER

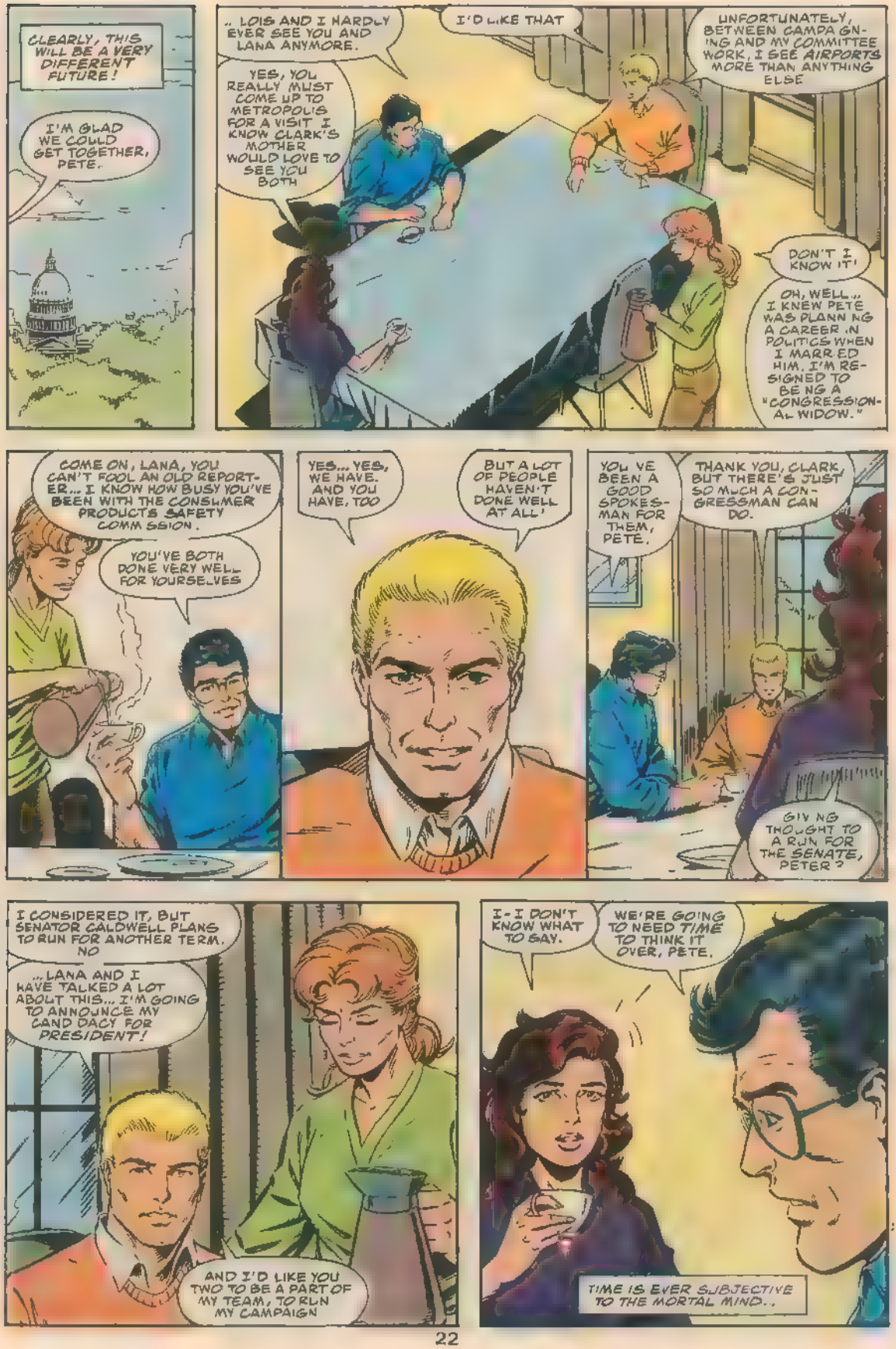

MA, THERE'S NO NEED TO MAKE A DECIS ON RIGHT AWAY IF YOU WANT TO KEEP THE FARM, F NE.. WE'LL HELP ANY WAY WE CAN !
I-I JUST DON'T WANT TO BE A BURDEN
DON'T EVEN THINK SUCH A THING, MARTHA ! BUT F YOU DO DECIDE TO SELL... CLARK AND I WANT YOU TO COME LIVE WITH US .


JONATHAN KENT DEAD. THE FAMILY FARM PUT ON THE MARKET .
FOR SALE
...THIS FUTURE LIFE OF SUPERMAN'S IS ALREADY DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER ONE I EXPERIENCED


THE WEDDING OF CLARK KENT AND LOIS LANE PROCEEDS APACE .
. THE HAPPY DAY NOW TINGED WITH SORROW OVER THE MISSING FATHER OF THE GROOM
...THOSE WHOM GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER LET NO ONE PUT ASUNDER

THE HONEYMOON IS BRIEF, AND THE NEWLYWEDS SOON SETTLE INTO THEIR NEW HOME IN METROPOLIS'S SUBURBAN PARK RIDGE...
I'M GOING TO TURN IN. SEE YOU TWO IN THE MORNING.
GOOD NIGHT, MARTHA.
SLEEP WELL, MA.
I WONDER...
...WHAT MORE WILL CHANGE IN THIS FUTURE?
KENT, YOU SURPRISE ME. I EXPECTED YOU AND LOIS TO KICK BACK A BIT AFTER THE WEDDING -- BUT THE TWO OF YOU ARE WORKING HARDER THAN EVER!
DAILY PLA
CAN'T BE HELPED, PERRY...
...NOT AS LONG AS INTERGANG'S STILL IN BUSINESS. SOMEBODY HAS TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THEIR OPERATIONS!
I AGREE... GO GET 'EM!
...BUT BE CAREFUL! THOSE CROOKS HAVE MORE FIREPOWER THAN MOST THIRD-WORLD NATIONS -- AND YOUR PAST EXPOSES HAVE ALREADY PUT YOU ON THEIR HIT LIST!
I'VE SURVIVED SO FAR, CHIEF..
...BUT INTERGANG WON'T. THEY HAVE TO BE STOPPED... SOON!
THERE IS GOOD REASON FOR URGENCY
EASY DOES IT, BOYS. INTERGANG IS GOING TO USE THAT NUCLEAR DEVICE TO BLACKMAIL METROPOLIS INTO TOTAL SUBMISSION.
BRUNO MANNHEIM'S MAD SCHEME IS FORE-DOOMED.
THIS DEVICE DESTROYED THE CITY IN THAT OTHER FUTURE..

...BUT NOT, APPARENTLY, IN THIS ONE!
GET AWAY FROM THAT BOMB, ALL OF YOU--
--NOW!!
OKAY, KEEP MOVING!
MAKE SURE THOSE MANACLES STAY ON HIM, OFFICER! MANNHEIM IS EVEN TOUGHER THAN HE LOOKS!
MAN, THIS IS GONNA MAKE A GREAT SHOT!
DAILY PLANET
INTERGANG CRUSHED
GOOD WORK, PEOPLE--
--THIS IS PULITZER MATERIAL, ALL THE WAY AROUND!
I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT, BABE!
WELL, SUPERMAN DESERVES MOST OF THE CREDIT!
GEE, THANKS, CHIEF!
THIS IS UNPRECEDENTED! SOMEHOW, ON SOME SUBCONSCIOUS LEVEL, SUPERMAN "REMEMBERED" OUR JOURNEY THROUGH HIS OTHER TIMELINE...
"AND ACTED TO PREVENT ITS EVENTS FROM OCCURRING!


CLEARLY, THIS WILL BE A VERY DIFFERENT FUTURE!
I'M GLAD WE COULD GET TOGETHER, PETE.
.. LOIS AND I HARDLY EVER SEE YOU AND LANA ANYMORE.
YES, YOU REALLY MUST COME UP TO METROPOLIS FOR A VISIT I KNOW CLARK'S MOTHER WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU BOTH
I'D LIKE THAT
UNFORTUNATELY, BETWEEN CAMPAIGNING AND MY COMMITTEE WORK, I SEE AIRPORTS MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE
DON'T I KNOW IT!
OH, WELL... I KNEW PETE WAS PLANNING A CAREER IN POLITICS WHEN I MARRIED HIM. I'M RESIGNED TO BEING A "CONGRESSIONAL WIDOW."
COME ON, LANA, YOU CAN'T FOOL AN OLD REPORTER... I KNOW HOW BUSY YOU'VE BEEN WITH THE CONSUMER PRODUCTS SAFETY COMMISSION.
YOU'VE BOTH DONE VERY WELL FOR YOURSELVES
YES... YES, WE HAVE. AND YOU HAVE, TOO
BUT A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVEN'T DONE WELL AT ALL!
YOU'VE BEEN A GOOD SPOKESMAN FOR THEM, PETE.
THANK YOU, CLARK, BUT THERE'S JUST SO MUCH A CONGRESSMAN CAN DO.
GIVING THOUGHT TO A RUN FOR THE SENATE, PETER?
I CONSIDERED IT, BUT SENATOR CALDWELL PLANS TO RUN FOR ANOTHER TERM. NO
... LANA AND I HAVE TALKED A LOT ABOUT THIS... I'M GOING TO ANNOUNCE MY CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENT!
AND I'D LIKE YOU TWO TO BE A PART OF MY TEAM, TO RUN MY CAMPAIGN
I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
WE'RE GOING TO NEED TIME TO THINK IT OVER, PETE.
TIME IS EVER SUBJECTIVE TO THE MORTAL MIND..

... ENTIRE WEEKS RACE BY WITH DIZZYING SPEED SEVERAL EVENTS LINGER...
CONGR[illegible] ROSS, HOW CAN YOU MAKE SUCH A CLAIM?
THE CANDIDATES
IT'S NO "CLAIM," GEORGE, IT'S THE TRUTH! AND EVERYONE OUTSIDE THE BELTWAY KNOWS IT!
ROSS... FOR PRESIDENT. FOR ALL AMERICA
ROSS for President
BECAUSE SECOND BEST JUST WON'T DO ANYMORE!
GOVERNOR, IT'S GOOD TO BE IN LOUISIANA AGAIN!
ROSS
AND IT'S AN HONOR TO WELCOME THE NEXT PRESIDENT!
... PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS HAVE TRIED TO IGNORE OUR PROBLEMS, HOPING TO PASS THEM ON TO FUTURE GENERATIONS
WELL, I SAY "ENOUGH!" THE TIME FOR ACTION IS NOW!
ROSS
ROSS! ROSS! ROSS!
THANK YOU! I APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!
THESE ARE THE LATEST POLLS? GOOD... WE'VE GAINED ANOTHER 10 POINTS
IF THIS KEEPS UP, THE REST OF THE PRIMARIES WILL BE A CAKEWALK!
ROSS
LET'S NOT GET TOO OVER-CONFIDENT, MEL.
BDAM-DAM-DAM!
MY GOD... NO...
... UNTIL ONE TERRIBLE MOMENT ..

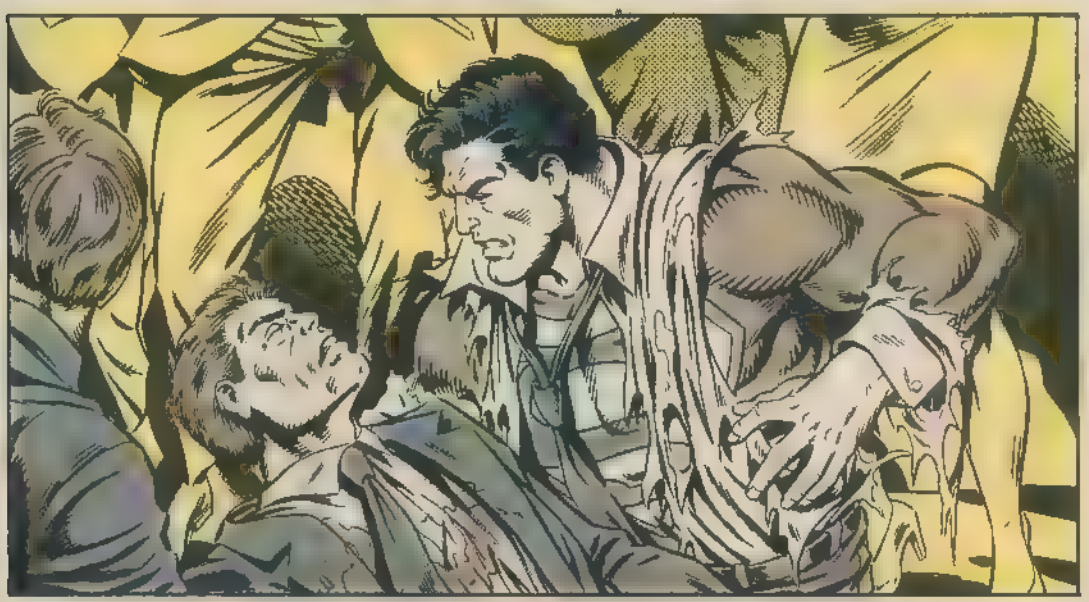
A TINY FRACTION OF TIME, YET IT SEEMS TO LAST AN ETERN.TY!
BDAM-
DAM-
DAM
LANA, GET DOW!
PETE!!
...NO!!!
PTANG-
TING!
KRAK
KRUNK
CLARK, IS HE--?
PARAMEDICS... SOMEBODY CALL THE PARAMEDICS!
IN JUST A FEW SECONDS...

...A WHOLE WORLD CAN CHANGE.

DAILY PLANET

Thursday, April 10, 2000 Price: 90¢

ROSS WOUNDED IN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT



TOP AIDE REVEALED TO BE SUPERMAN!

By STAN TIMMONS
Special to The Daily Planet

CALVIN CITY, Penn., April 10. Kansas Congressman Peter Ross was shot and gravely wounded at a campaign rally in Calvin City, Pennsylvania, last night.

Ross, a leading contender for his party's presidential nomination, had just finished speaking and was greeting well-wishers when an unidentified assailant stepped forward and opened fire with a semi-automatic weapon. As Ross collapsed, his campaign manager, Clark Kent, charged across the room, shielding the congressman with his own body. As bullets were seen to bounce from his chest, Kent knocked the assailant unconscious and crushed the weapon in one hand.

It was then that witnesses noticed the familiar red, yellow, and blue uniform of Superman beneath the tatters of Kent's clothing.

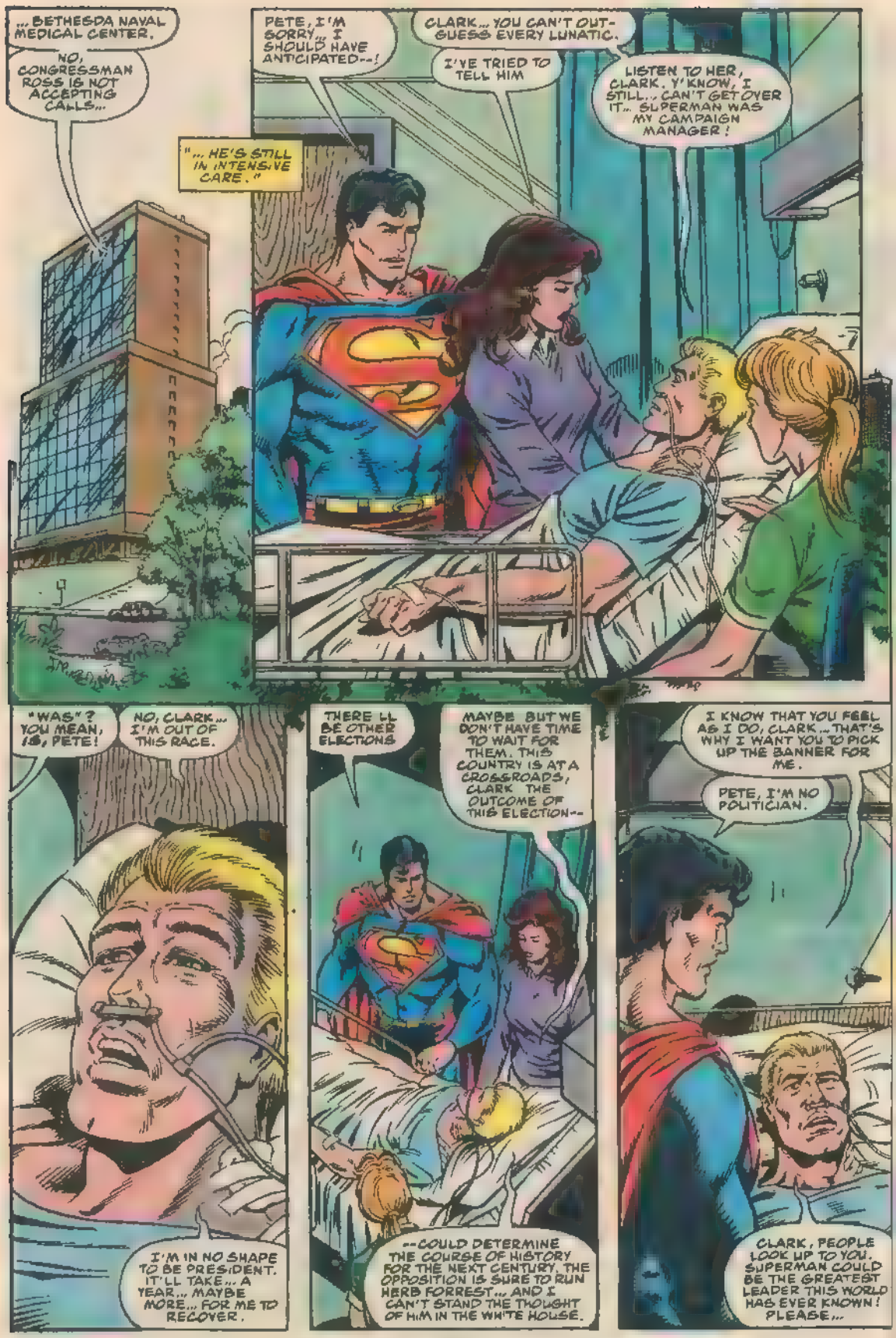
continued on page 66

MAN OF STEEL IS FORMER JOURNALIST

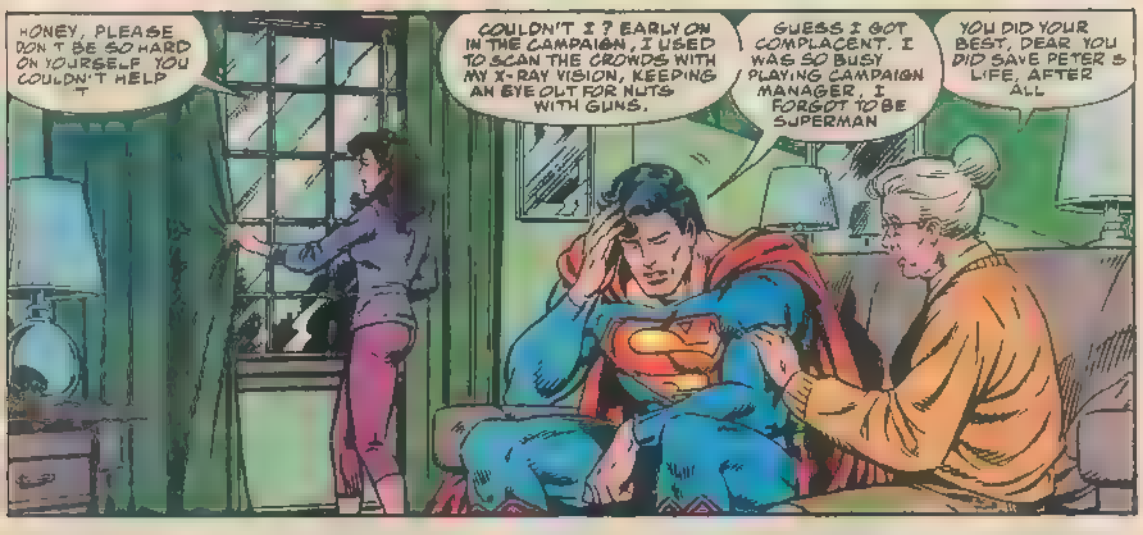
Clark Kent, until recently a reporter and columnist for the *Daily Planet*, was last night revealed to be Superman.

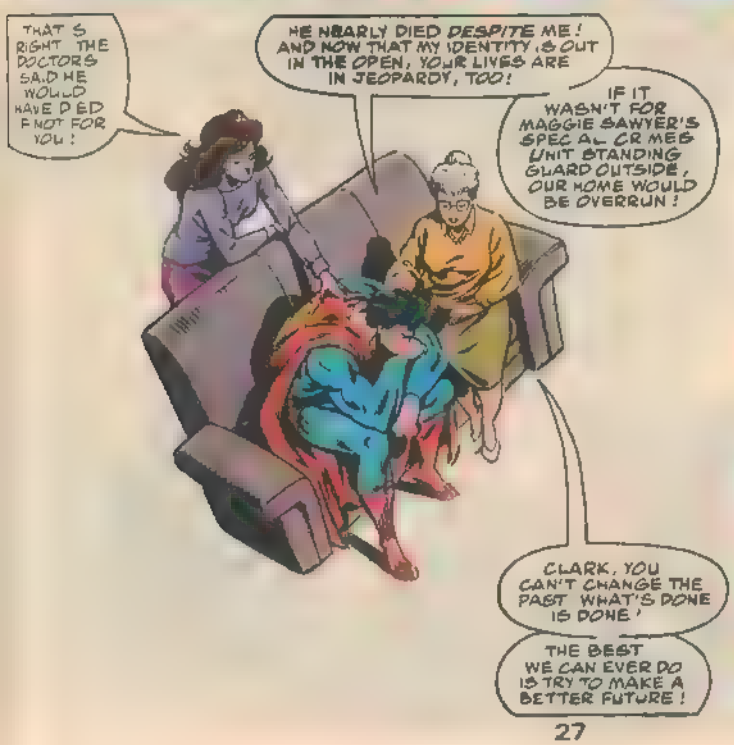
Kent, a three-time Pulitzer Prize winner, resigned his position with the *Planet* late last year to manage the presidential campaign of Congressman Peter Ross, whom he had known since childhood.

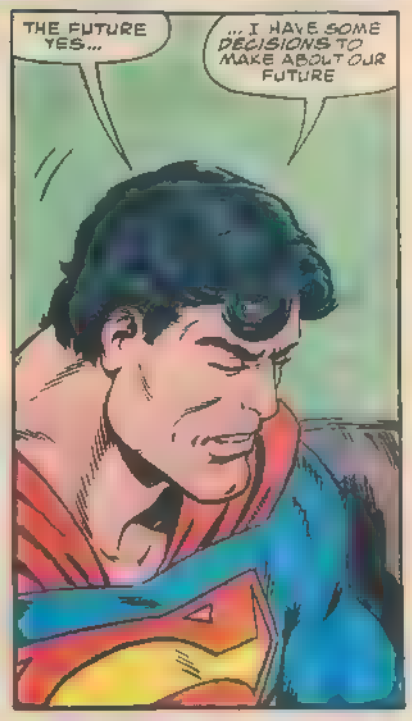
Related stories.....Pages 2A-5A • Editorial by Perry White .....Page 12A • Commentary by Mary Powers...Page 13A

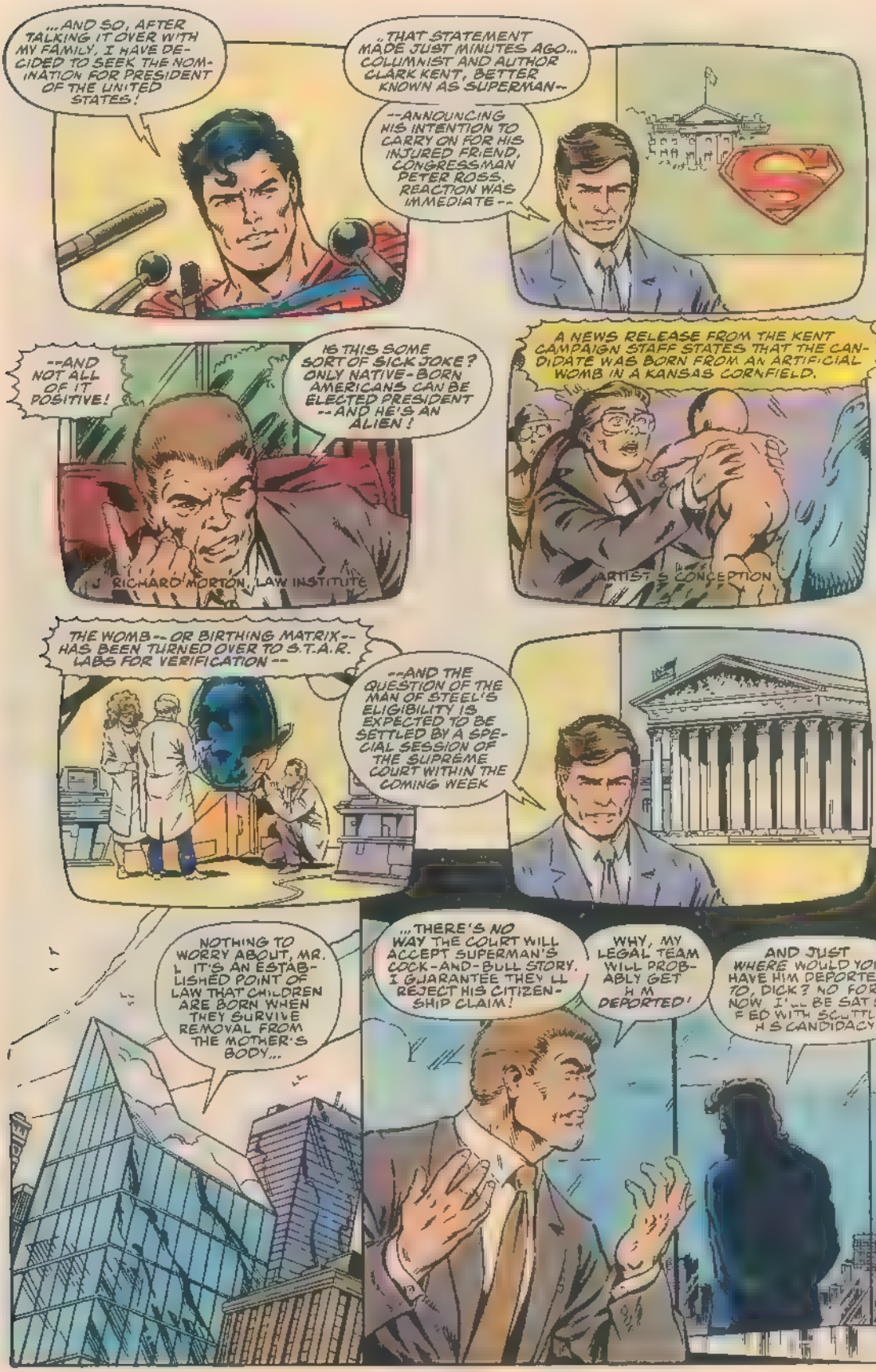

... BETHESDA NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER.
NO, CONGRESSMAN ROSS IS NOT ACCEPTING CALLS...
"... HE'S STILL IN INTENSIVE CARE."
PETE, I'M SORRY... I SHOULD HAVE ANTICIPATED--!
CLARK... YOU CAN'T OUT-GUESS EVERY LUNATIC.
I'VE TRIED TO TELL HIM
LISTEN TO HER, CLARK. Y'KNOW, I STILL... CAN'T GET OVER IT... SUPERMAN WAS MY CAMPAIGN MANAGER!
"WAS"? YOU MEAN, IS, PETE!
NO, CLARK... I'M OUT OF THIS RACE.
I'M IN NO SHAPE TO BE PRESIDENT. IT'LL TAKE... A YEAR... MAYBE MORE... FOR ME TO RECOVER.
THERE'LL BE OTHER ELECTIONS
MAYBE BUT WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO WAIT FOR THEM. THIS COUNTRY IS AT A CROSSROADS, CLARK. THE OUTCOME OF THIS ELECTION--
--COULD DETERMINE THE COURSE OF HISTORY FOR THE NEXT CENTURY. THE OPPOSITION IS SURE TO RUN HERB FORREST... AND I CAN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF HIM IN THE WHITE HOUSE.
I KNOW THAT YOU FEEL AS I DO, CLARK... THAT'S WHY I WANT YOU TO PICK UP THE BANNER FOR ME.
PETE, I'M NO POLITICIAN.
CLARK, PEOPLE LOOK UP TO YOU. SUPERMAN COULD BE THE GREATEST LEADER THIS WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN! PLEASE...

"... FROM SE ME YOU'LL CONSIDER IT."
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE FAITH PETE HAS IN ME... ESPECIALLY AFTER THE MESS I'VE MADE OF THINGS!
KEEP IT MOVING... NOTHING TO SEE HERE!
"NOTHING TO SEE"? THIS S SUPERMAN'S HOUSE AIN'T IT?

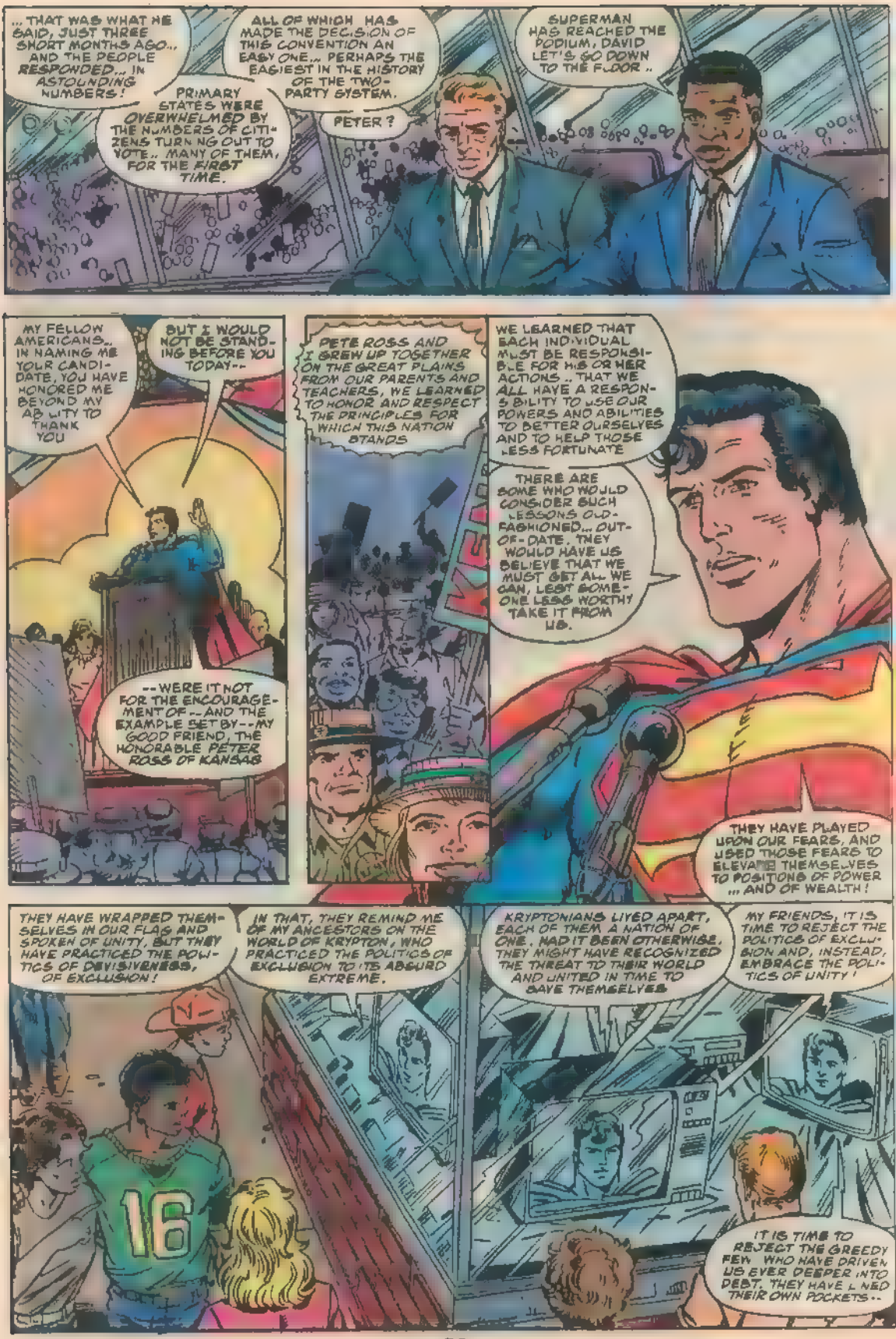

HONEY, PLEASE DON T BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF YOU COULDN'T HELP T
COULDN'T I? EARLY ON IN THE CAMPAIGN, I USED TO SCAN THE CROWDS WITH MY X-RAY VISION, KEEPING AN EYE OUT FOR NUTS WITH GUNS.
GUESS I GOT COMPLACENT. I WAS SO BUSY PLAYING CAMPAIGN MANAGER, I FORGOT TO BE SUPERMAN
YOU DID YOUR BEST, DEAR YOU DID SAVE PETER S LIFE, AFTER ALL

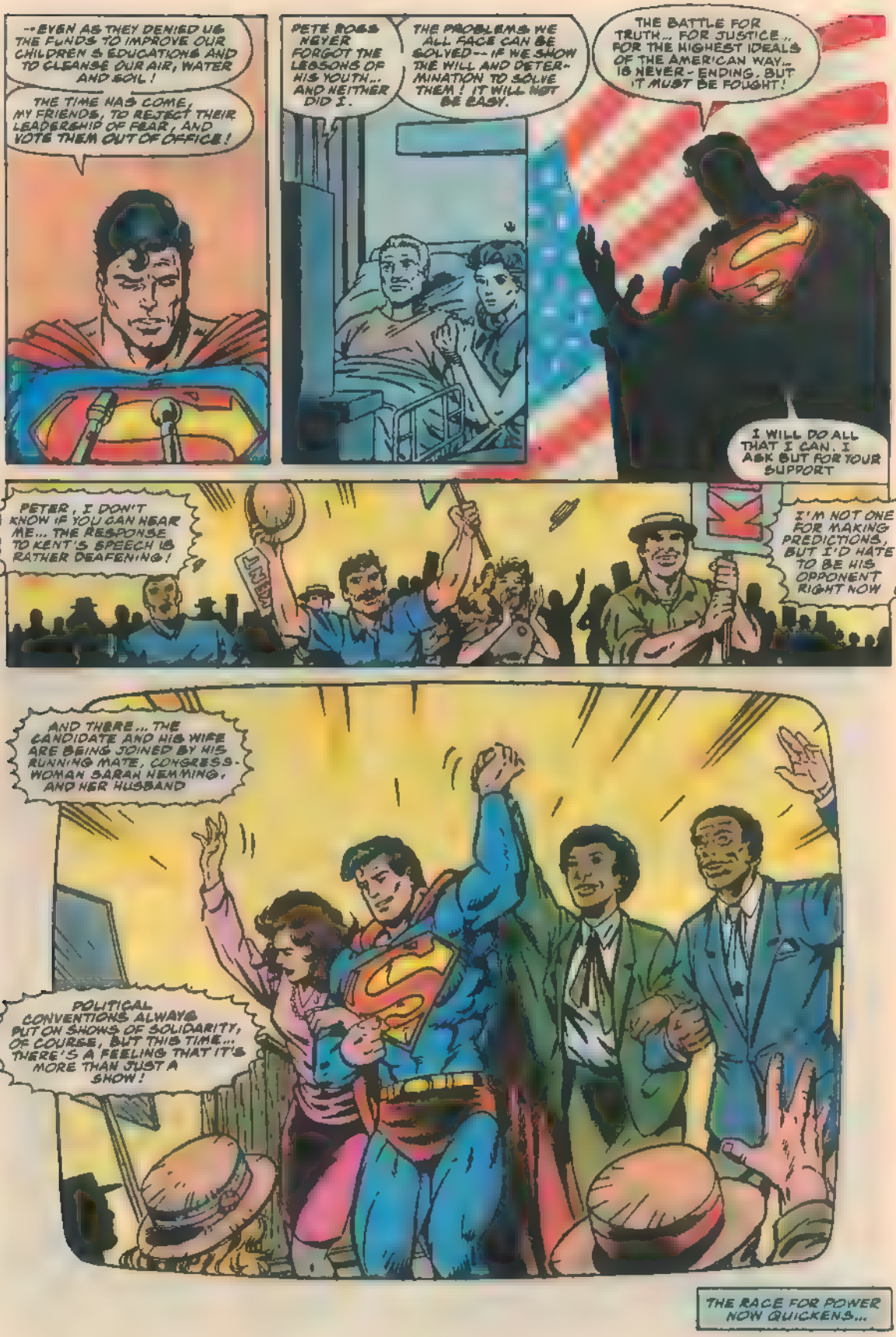

THAT S RIGHT THE DOCTORS SAID HE WOULD HAVE D ED F NOT FOR YOU!
HE NEARLY DIED DESPITE ME! AND NOW THAT MY IDENTITY S OUT IN THE OPEN, YOUR LIVES ARE IN JEOPARDY, TOO!
IF IT WASN'T FOR MAGGIE SAWYER'S SPEC AL CR MES UNIT STANDING GUARD OUTSIDE, OUR HOME WOULD BE OVERRUN!
CLARK, YOU CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST WHAT'S DONE IS DONE!
THE BEST WE CAN EVER DO IS TRY TO MAKE A BETTER FUTURE!

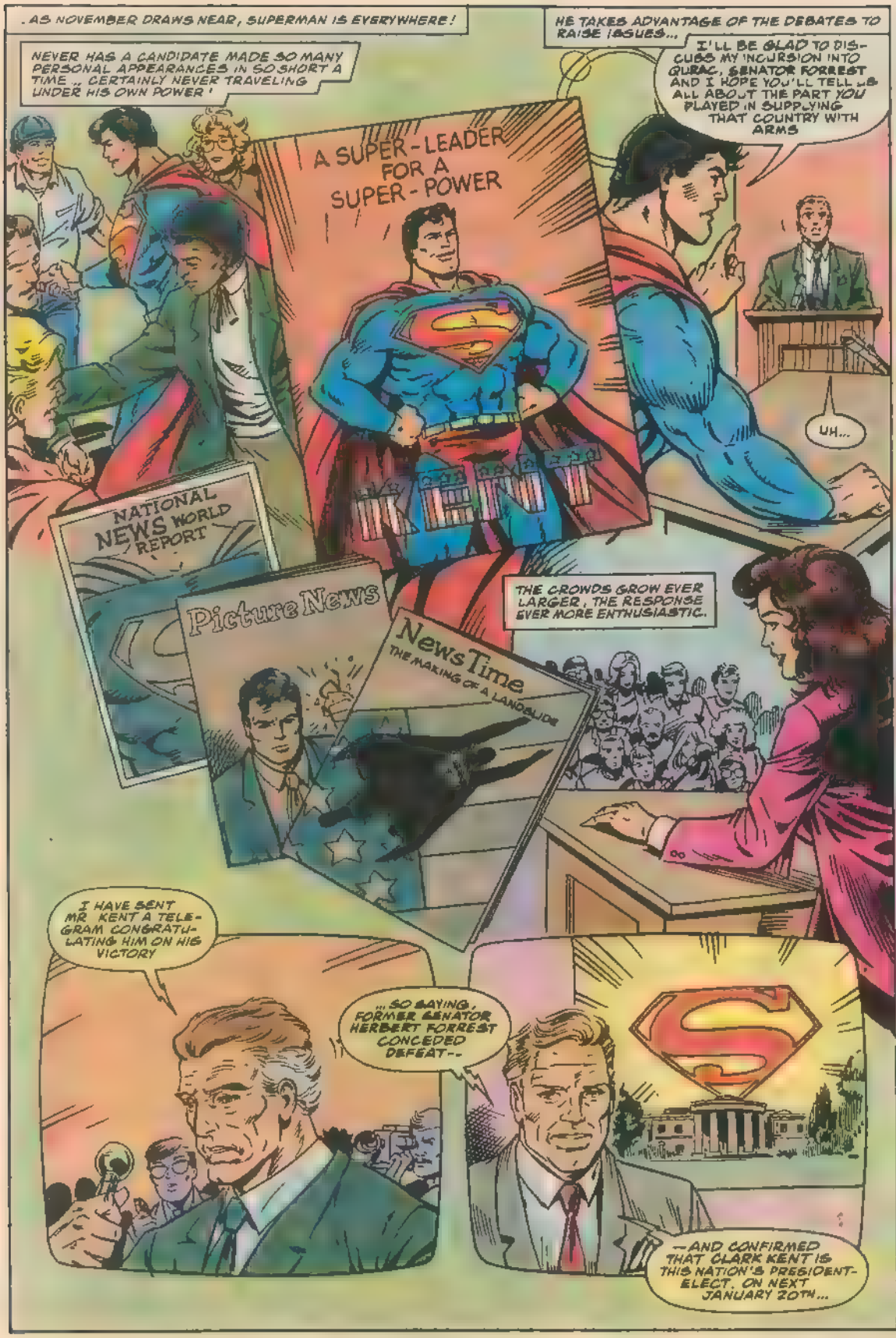

THE FUTURE YES...
... I HAVE SOME DECISIONS TO MAKE ABOUT OUR FUTURE

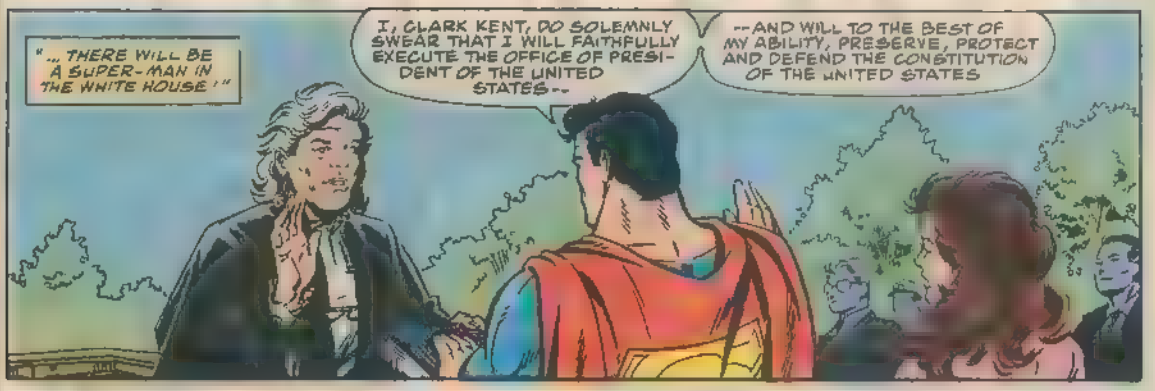

...AND SO, AFTER TALKING IT OVER WITH MY FAMILY, I HAVE DECIDED TO SEEK THE NOMINATION FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES!
...THAT STATEMENT MADE JUST MINUTES AGO... COLUMNIST AND AUTHOR CLARK KENT, BETTER KNOWN AS SUPERMAN--
--ANNOUNCING HIS INTENTION TO CARRY ON FOR HIS INJURED FRIEND, CONGRESSMAN PETER ROSS. REACTION WAS IMMEDIATE--
--AND NOT ALL OF IT POSITIVE!
IS THIS SOME SORT OF SICK JOKE? ONLY NATIVE-BORN AMERICANS CAN BE ELECTED PRESIDENT --AND HE'S AN ALIEN!
J. RICHARD MORTON, LAW INSTITUTE
A NEWS RELEASE FROM THE KENT CAMPAIGN STAFF STATES THAT THE CANDIDATE WAS BORN FROM AN ARTIFICIAL WOMB IN A KANSAS CORNFIELD.
ARTIST'S CONCEPTION
THE WOMB -- OR BIRTHING MATRIX -- HAS BEEN TURNED OVER TO S.T.A.R. LABS FOR VERIFICATION --
--AND THE QUESTION OF THE MAN OF STEEL'S ELIGIBILITY IS EXPECTED TO BE SETTLED BY A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE SUPREME COURT WITHIN THE COMING WEEK
NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, MR. L. IT'S AN ESTABLISHED POINT OF LAW THAT CHILDREN ARE BORN WHEN THEY SURVIVE REMOVAL FROM THE MOTHER'S BODY...
...THERE'S NO WAY THE COURT WILL ACCEPT SUPERMAN'S COCK-AND-BULL STORY. I GUARANTEE THEY'LL REJECT HIS CITIZENSHIP CLAIM!
WHY, MY LEGAL TEAM WILL PROBABLY GET HIM DEPORTED!
AND JUST WHERE WOULD YOU HAVE HIM DEPORTED TO, DICK? NO FOR NOW. I'LL BE SATISFIED WITH SCUTTLING HIS CANDIDACY

SUPERMAN WAS A THORN IN MY FATHER'S SIDE FOR TOO MANY YEARS
I'LL NOT STAND IDLY BY AND WATCH HIM ACQUIRE MORE POWER.
MEEP MEEP MEEP M
HELLO? AH, YES, PUT HIM THROUGH!
IT'S OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON, SIR.
STEPHENSON! WHAT'S THE GOOD WORD?
WHAT?!?
B-BUT THEY COULDN'T! HE CAN'T BE--!
EXTRA! DAILY PLANET EXTRA
BORN IN THE U.S.A.!
KEYSTONE CITY HERALD
HIGH COURT RULES 9-0, SUPERMAN'S CANDIDACY IS VALID
... THE JUSTICES ACKNOWLEDGED S.T.A.R. LABS' EVIDENCE THAT SUPERMAN HAD BEEN ARTIFICIALLY CONCEIVED WITHIN THE BIRTHING MATRIX.
THUS, IT WAS THEIR UNANIMOUS DECISION THAT THE MAN OF STEEL WAS TRULY BORN ONLY AFTER THE MATRIX OPENED ON U.S. SOIL!
I APPRECIATE THE COURT'S PROMPTNESS IN SETTLING THE QUESTION. THE MATTER IS NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE.


... THAT WAS WHAT HE SAID, JUST THREE SHORT MONTHS AGO... AND THE PEOPLE RESPONDED... IN ASTOUNDING NUMBERS!
ALL OF WHICH HAS MADE THE DECISION OF THIS CONVENTION AN EASY ONE... PERHAPS THE EASIEST IN THE HISTORY OF THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM.
SUPERMAN HAS REACHED THE PODIUM, DAVID LET'S GO DOWN TO THE FLOOR..
PRIMARY STATES WERE OVERWHELMED BY THE NUMBERS OF CITIZENS TURNING OUT TO VOTE.. MANY OF THEM, FOR THE FIRST TIME.
PETER?
MY FELLOW AMERICANS.. IN NAMING ME YOUR CANDIDATE, YOU HAVE HONORED ME BEYOND MY ABILITY TO THANK YOU
BUT I WOULD NOT BE STANDING BEFORE YOU TODAY--
--WERE IT NOT FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF--AND THE EXAMPLE SET BY--MY GOOD FRIEND, THE HONORABLE PETER ROSS OF KANSAS
PETE ROSS AND I GREW UP TOGETHER ON THE GREAT PLAINS. FROM OUR PARENTS AND TEACHERS, WE LEARNED TO HONOR AND RESPECT THE PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH THIS NATION STANDS
WE LEARNED THAT EACH INDIVIDUAL MUST BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS OR HER ACTIONS.. THAT WE ALL HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO USE OUR POWERS AND ABILITIES TO BETTER OURSELVES AND TO HELP THOSE LESS FORTUNATE
THERE ARE SOME WHO WOULD CONSIDER SUCH LESSONS OLD-FASHIONED... OUT-OF-DATE. THEY WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE THAT WE MUST GET ALL WE CAN, LEST SOMEONE LESS WORTHY TAKE IT FROM US.
THEY HAVE PLAYED UPON OUR FEARS, AND USED THOSE FEARS TO ELEVATE THEMSELVES TO POSITIONS OF POWER ... AND OF WEALTH!
THEY HAVE WRAPPED THEMSELVES IN OUR FLAG AND SPOKEN OF UNITY, BUT THEY HAVE PRACTICED THE POLITICS OF DIVISIVENESS, OF EXCLUSION!
IN THAT, THEY REMIND ME OF MY ANCESTORS ON THE WORLD OF KRYPTON, WHO PRACTICED THE POLITICS OF EXCLUSION TO ITS ABSURD EXTREME.
KRYPTONIANS LIVED APART, EACH OF THEM A NATION OF ONE. HAD IT BEEN OTHERWISE, THEY MIGHT HAVE RECOGNIZED THE THREAT TO THEIR WORLD AND UNITED IN TIME TO SAVE THEMSELVES.
MY FRIENDS, IT IS TIME TO REJECT THE POLITICS OF EXCLUSION AND, INSTEAD, EMBRACE THE POLITICS OF UNITY!
IT IS TIME TO REJECT THE GREEDY FEW WHO HAVE DRIVEN US EVER DEEPER INTO DEBT. THEY HAVE LINED THEIR OWN POCKETS..
16


--EVEN AS THEY DENIED US THE FUNDS TO IMPROVE OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONS AND TO CLEANSE OUR AIR, WATER AND SOIL!
THE TIME HAS COME, MY FRIENDS, TO REJECT THEIR LEADERSHIP OF FEAR, AND VOTE THEM OUT OF OFFICE!
PETE ROSS NEVER FORGOT THE LESSONS OF HIS YOUTH... AND NEITHER DID I.
THE PROBLEMS WE ALL FACE CAN BE SOLVED-- IF WE SHOW THE WILL AND DETERMINATION TO SOLVE THEM! IT WILL NOT BE EASY.
THE BATTLE FOR TRUTH... FOR JUSTICE... FOR THE HIGHEST IDEALS OF THE AMERICAN WAY... IS NEVER-ENDING. BUT IT MUST BE FOUGHT!
I WILL DO ALL THAT I CAN. I ASK BUT FOR YOUR SUPPORT
PETER, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN HEAR ME... THE RESPONSE TO KENT'S SPEECH IS RATHER DEAFENING!
I'M NOT ONE FOR MAKING PREDICTIONS, BUT I'D HATE TO BE HIS OPPONENT RIGHT NOW
AND THERE... THE CANDIDATE AND HIS WIFE ARE BEING JOINED BY HIS RUNNING MATE, CONGRESSWOMAN SARAH HEMMING, AND HER HUSBAND
POLITICAL CONVENTIONS ALWAYS PUT ON SHOWS OF SOLIDARITY, OF COURSE, BUT THIS TIME... THERE'S A FEELING THAT IT'S MORE THAN JUST A SHOW!
THE RACE FOR POWER NOW QUICKENS...

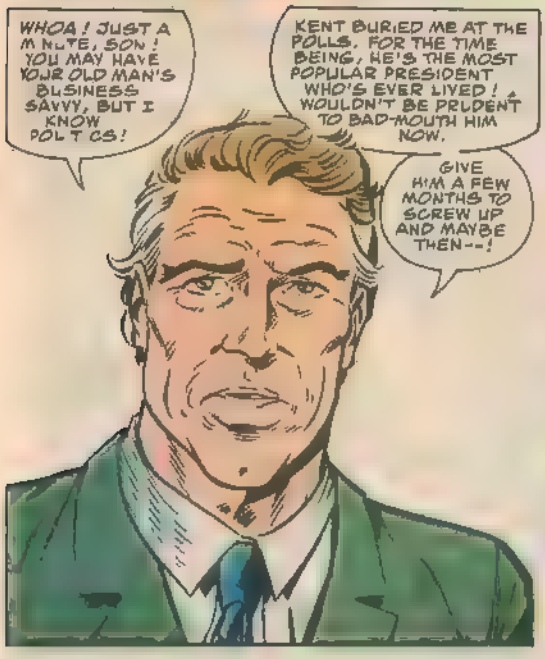

. AS NOVEMBER DRAWS NEAR, SUPERMAN IS EVERYWHERE!
NEVER HAS A CANDIDATE MADE SO MANY PERSONAL APPEARANCES IN SO SHORT A TIME .. CERTAINLY NEVER TRAVELING UNDER HIS OWN POWER!
A SUPER-LEADER FOR A SUPER-POWER
HE TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE DEBATES TO RAISE ISSUES...
I'LL BE GLAD TO DISCUSS MY INCURSION INTO QURAC, SENATOR FORREST AND I HOPE YOU'LL TELL US ALL ABOUT THE PART YOU PLAYED IN SUPPLYING THAT COUNTRY WITH ARMS
UH...
NATIONAL NEWS WORLD REPORT
Picture News
News Time
THE MAKING OF A LANDSLIDE
THE CROWDS GROW EVER LARGER, THE RESPONSE EVER MORE ENTHUSIASTIC.
I HAVE SENT MR KENT A TELEGRAM CONGRATULATING HIM ON HIS VICTORY
...SO SAYING, FORMER SENATOR HERBERT FORREST CONCEDED DEFEAT--
--AND CONFIRMED THAT CLARK KENT IS THIS NATION'S PRESIDENT-ELECT, ON NEXT JANUARY 20TH...


"... THERE WILL BE A SUPER-MAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE!"
I, CLARK KENT, DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR THAT I WILL FAITHFULLY EXECUTE THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES--
--AND WILL TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY, PRESERVE, PROTECT AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

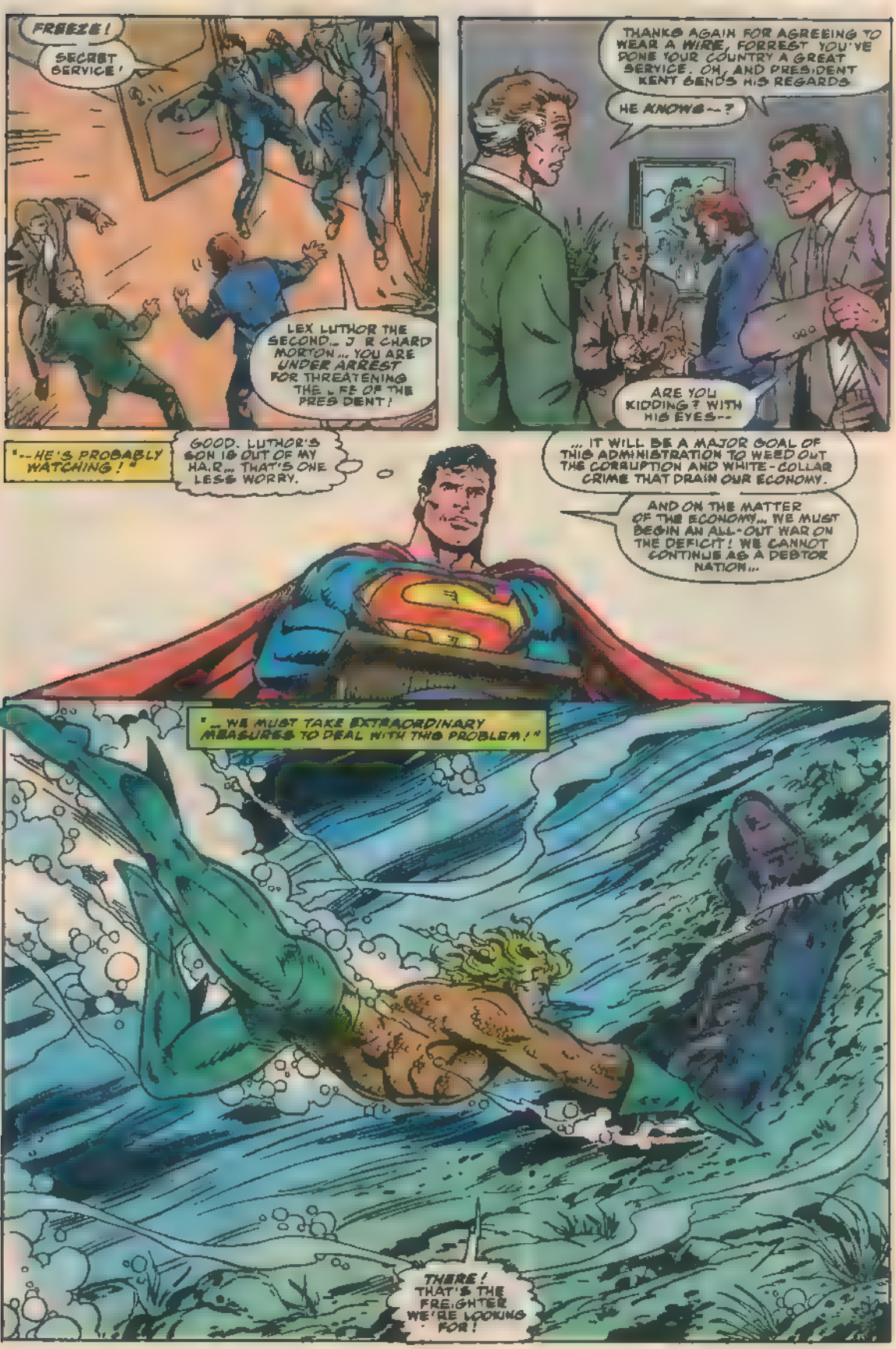
... THE PAST CENTURY HAS BORNE WITNESS TO GREAT CHANGE. WE HAVE LITERALLY GONE FROM THE HORSE AND BUGGY TO THE THRESHOLDS OF SPACE.
WE HAVE ENDURED FOREIGN WAR AND DOMESTIC DEPRIVATION AROUND THE WORLD, NEW POLITICAL SYSTEMS HAVE RISEN... AND FALLEN

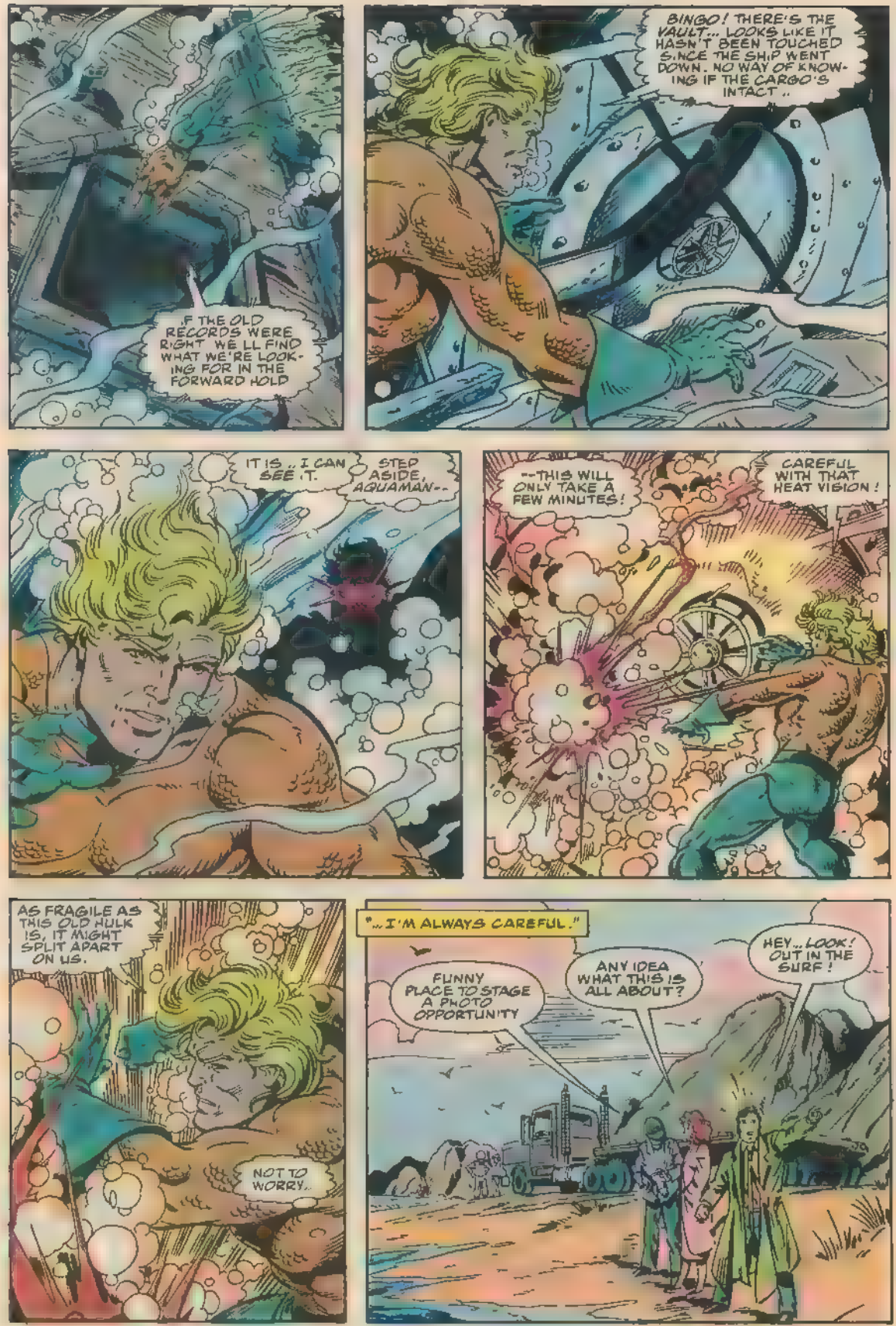
YET, THROUGH IT ALL, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS PERSEVERED ... OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT STANDING AS A SHINING EXAMPLE--!
TURN THAT THING OFF!

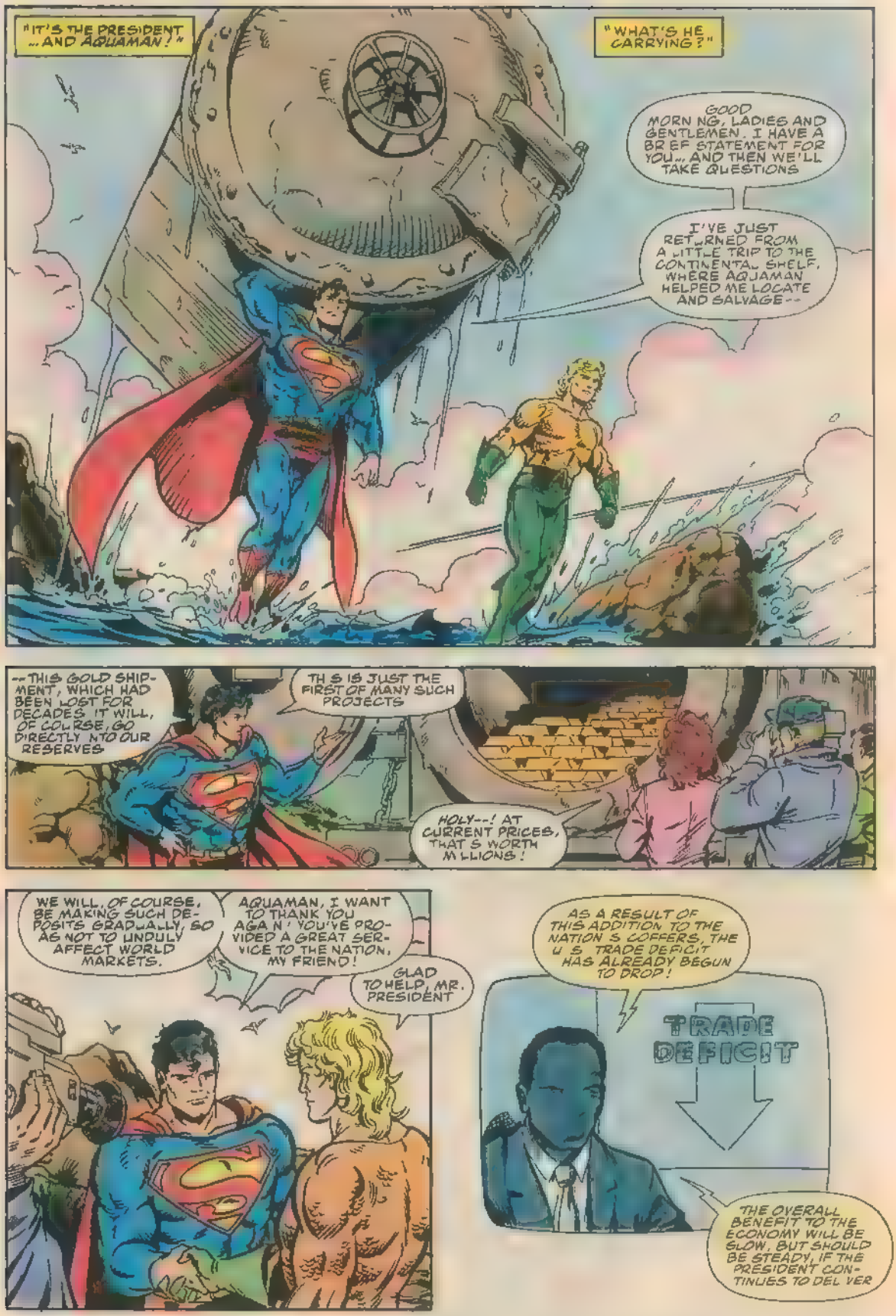
I DIDN'T COME DOWN TO WASHINGTON TO HEAR THAT @#*%!! INVOKE THE FOUNDING FATHERS!
I HATED MISSING THE INAUGURATION, LUTHOR.. MAKES ME LOOK LIKE A POOR SPORT... A BAD LOSER. WHY'D YOU INSIST THAT I MEET YOU HERE?
WE MUST PLAN OUR NEXT MOVE AGAINST THAT... THAT ALIEN!

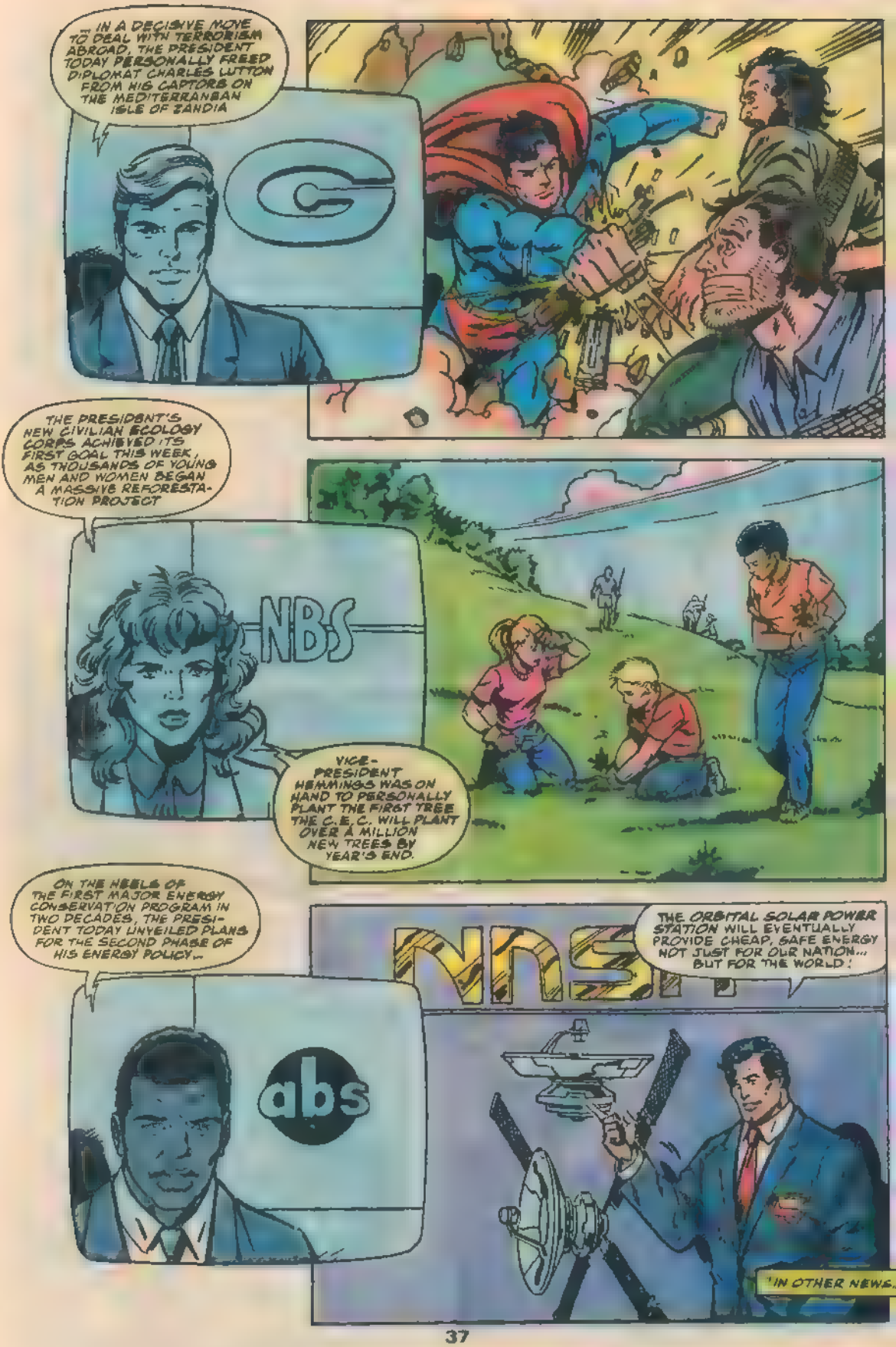

WHOA! JUST A MINUTE, SON! YOU MAY HAVE YOUR OLD MAN'S BUSINESS SAVVY, BUT I KNOW POLITICS!
KENT BURIED ME AT THE POLLS. FOR THE TIME BEING, HE'S THE MOST POPULAR PRESIDENT WHO'S EVER LIVED! WOULDN'T BE PRUDENT TO BAD-MOUTH HIM NOW.
GIVE HIM A FEW MONTHS TO SCREW UP AND MAYBE THEN--!

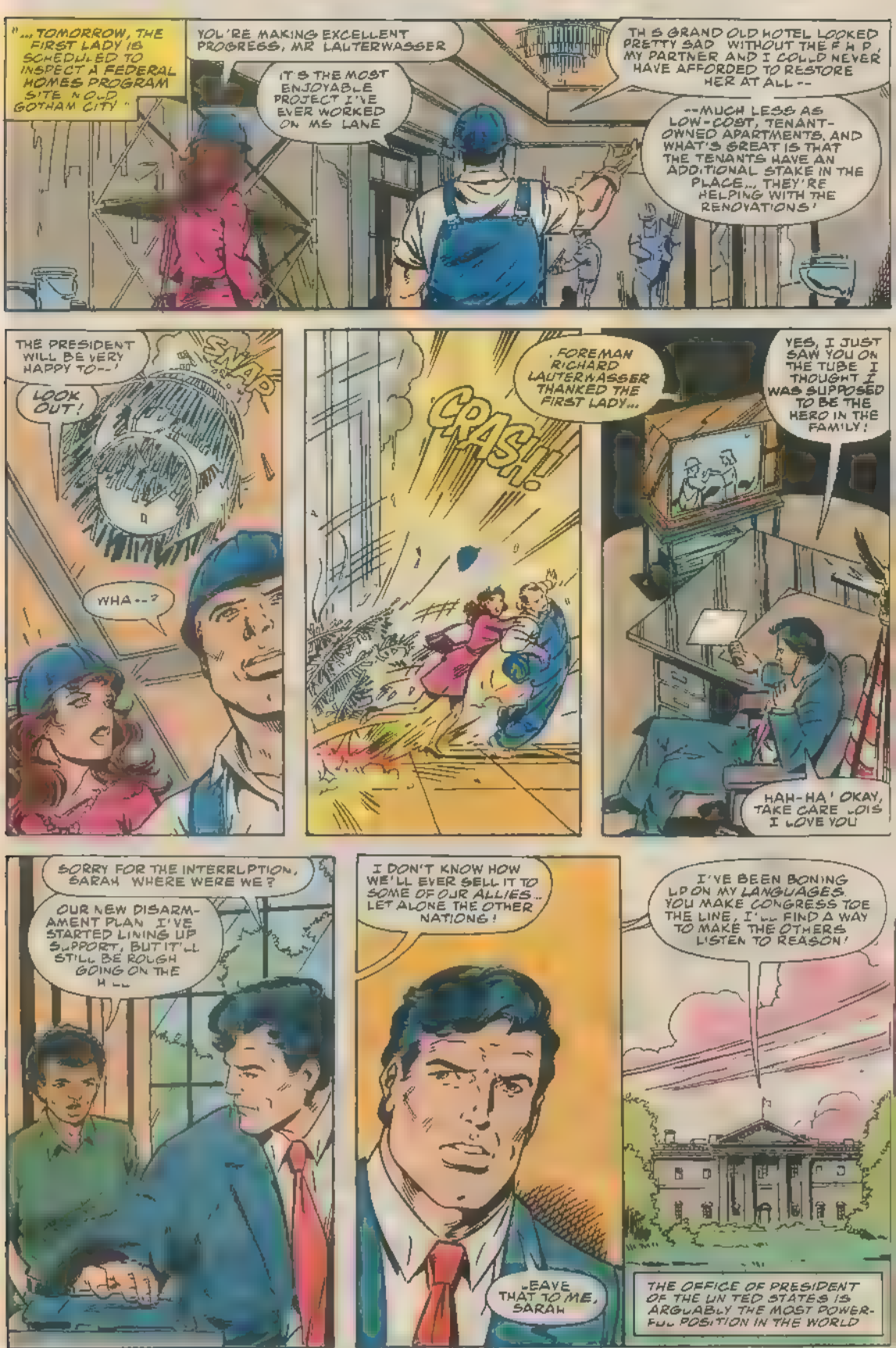
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN HOW POPULAR HE IS! I WILL SEE HIM DEAD IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!
DEAD? Y-YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT!
OF COURSE HE DOES!


FREEZE!
SECRET SERVICE!
LEX LUTHOR THE SECOND... J R CHARD MORTON... YOU ARE UNDER ARREST FOR THREATENING THE LIFE OF THE PRESIDENT!
THANKS AGAIN FOR AGREEING TO WEAR A WIRE, FORREST. YOU'VE DONE YOUR COUNTRY A GREAT SERVICE. OH, AND PRESIDENT KENT SENDS HIS REGARDS.
HE KNOWS--?
ARE YOU KIDDING? WITH HIS EYES--
"--HE'S PROBABLY WATCHING!"
GOOD. LUTHOR'S SON IS OUT OF MY HAIR... THAT'S ONE LESS WORRY.
... IT WILL BE A MAJOR GOAL OF THIS ADMINISTRATION TO WEED OUT THE CORRUPTION AND WHITE-COLLAR CRIME THAT DRAIN OUR ECONOMY.
AND ON THE MATTER OF THE ECONOMY... WE MUST BEGIN AN ALL-OUT WAR ON THE DEFICIT! WE CANNOT CONTINUE AS A DEBTOR NATION...
"... WE MUST TAKE EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM!"
THERE! THAT'S THE FREIGHTER WE'RE LOOKING FOR!


IF THE OLD RECORDS WERE RIGHT WE'LL FIND WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR IN THE FORWARD HOLD
BINGO! THERE'S THE VAULT... LOOKS LIKE IT HASN'T BEEN TOUCHED SINCE THE SHIP WENT DOWN. NO WAY OF KNOWING IF THE CARGO'S INTACT..
IT IS.. I CAN SEE IT.
STEP ASIDE, AQUAMAN--
--THIS WILL ONLY TAKE A FEW MINUTES!
CAREFUL WITH THAT HEAT VISION!
AS FRAGILE AS THIS OLD HULK IS, IT MIGHT SPLIT APART ON US.
NOT TO WORRY..
"..I'M ALWAYS CAREFUL."
FUNNY PLACE TO STAGE A PHOTO OPPORTUNITY
ANY IDEA WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?
HEY.. LOOK! OUT IN THE SURF!

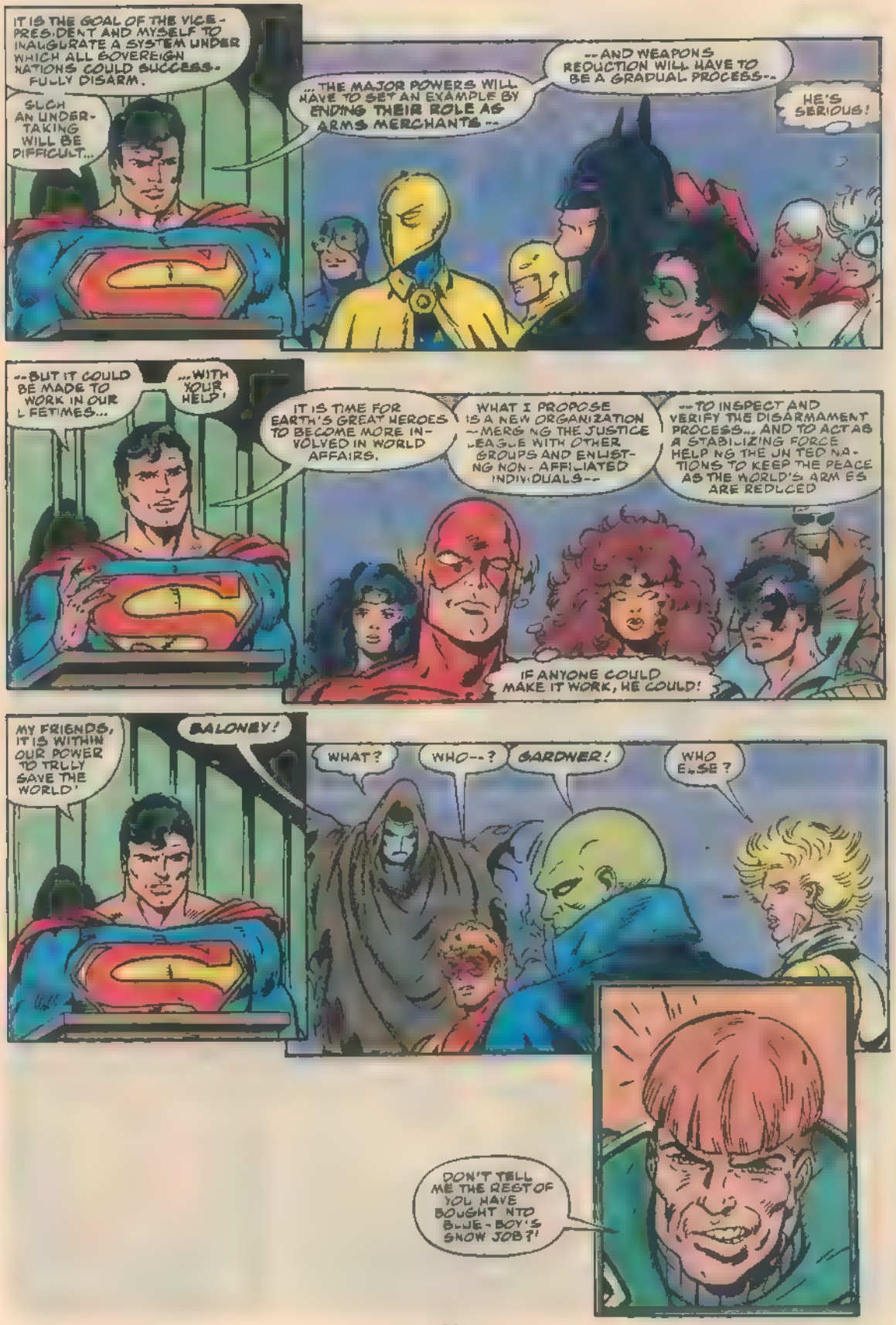

"IT'S THE PRESIDENT ...AND AQUAMAN!"
"WHAT'S HE CARRYING?"
GOOD MORN NG, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. I HAVE A BR EF STATEMENT FOR YOU... AND THEN WE'LL TAKE QUESTIONS
I'VE JUST RET..RNED FROM A LITTLE TRIP TO THE CONTINENTAL SHELF, WHERE AQUAMAN HELPED ME LOCATE AND SALVAGE--
--THIS GOLD SHIPMENT, WHICH HAD BEEN LOST FOR DECADES. IT WILL, OF COURSE, GO DIRECTLY NTO OUR RESERVES
TH S IS JUST THE FIRST OF MANY SUCH PROJECTS
HOLY--! AT CURRENT PRICES, THAT S WORTH M LLIONS!
WE WILL, OF COURSE, BE MAKING SUCH DEPOSITS GRADUALLY, SO AS NOT TO UNDULY AFFECT WORLD MARKETS.
AQUAMAN, I WANT TO THANK YOU AGA N! YOU'VE PROVIDED A GREAT SERVICE TO THE NATION, MY FRIEND!
GLAD TO HELP, MR. PRESIDENT
AS A RESULT OF THIS ADDITION TO THE NATION S COFFERS, THE U S TRADE DEFICIT HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO DROP!
TRADE DEFICIT
THE OVERALL BENEFIT TO THE ECONOMY WILL BE SLOW, BUT SHOULD BE STEADY, IF THE PRESIDENT CONTINUES TO DEL VER

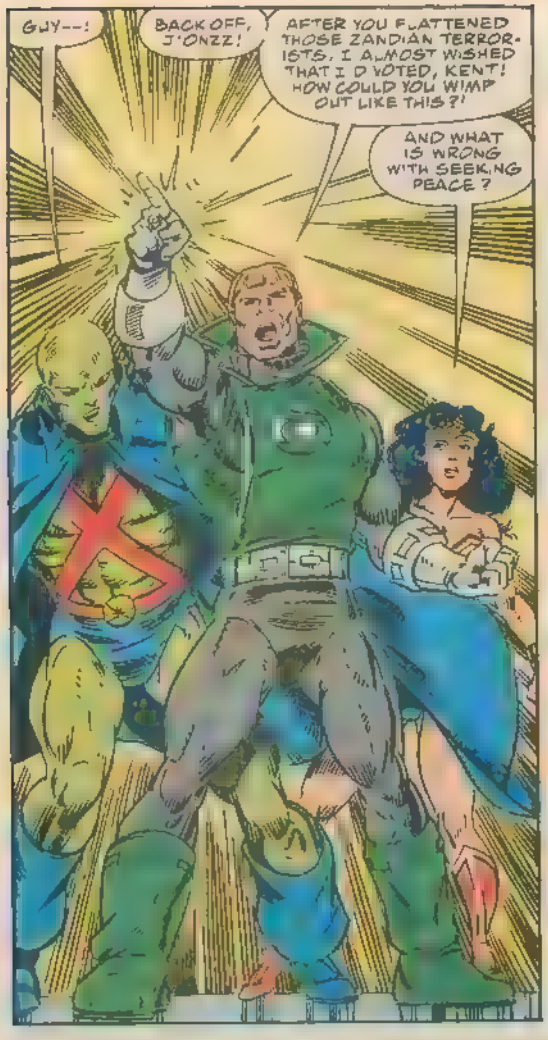

...IN A DECISIVE MOVE TO DEAL WITH TERRORISM ABROAD, THE PRESIDENT TODAY PERSONALLY FREED DIPLOMAT CHARLES LUTTON FROM HIS CAPTORS ON THE MEDITERRANEAN ISLE OF ZANDIA
THE PRESIDENT'S NEW CIVILIAN ECOLOGY CORPS ACHIEVED ITS FIRST GOAL THIS WEEK, AS THOUSANDS OF YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN BEGAN A MASSIVE REFORESTATION PROJECT
NBS
VICE-PRESIDENT HEMMINGS WAS ON HAND TO PERSONALLY PLANT THE FIRST TREE THE C.E.C. WILL PLANT OVER A MILLION NEW TREES BY YEAR'S END.
ON THE HEELS OF THE FIRST MAJOR ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM IN TWO DECADES, THE PRESIDENT TODAY UNVEILED PLANS FOR THE SECOND PHASE OF HIS ENERGY POLICY...
abs
NBS
THE ORBITAL SOLAR POWER STATION WILL EVENTUALLY PROVIDE CHEAP, SAFE ENERGY NOT JUST FOR OUR NATION... BUT FOR THE WORLD!
IN OTHER NEWS...

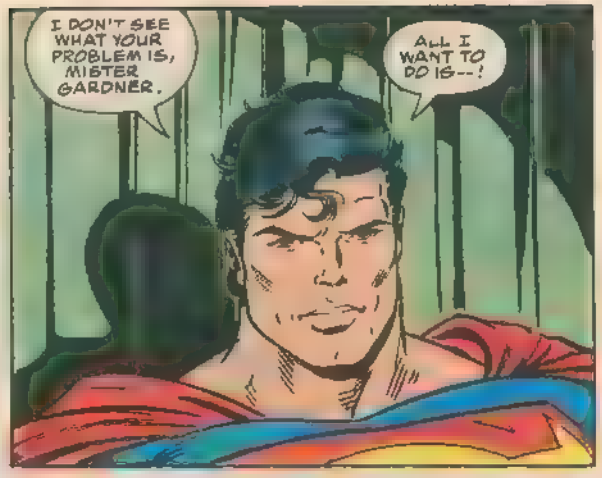

"...TOMORROW, THE FIRST LADY IS SCHEDULED TO INSPECT A FEDERAL HOMES PROGRAM SITE IN OLD GOTHAM CITY."
YOU'RE MAKING EXCELLENT PROGRESS, MR LAUTERWASSER
IT'S THE MOST ENJOYABLE PROJECT I'VE EVER WORKED ON MS LANE
THIS GRAND OLD HOTEL LOOKED PRETTY SAD WITHOUT THE FHP, MY PARTNER AND I COULD NEVER HAVE AFFORDED TO RESTORE HER AT ALL--
--MUCH LESS AS LOW-COST, TENANT-OWNED APARTMENTS, AND WHAT'S GREAT IS THAT THE TENANTS HAVE AN ADDITIONAL STAKE IN THE PLACE... THEY'RE HELPING WITH THE RENOVATIONS!
THE PRESIDENT WILL BE VERY HAPPY TO--!
SNAP
LOOK OUT!
WHA--?
CRASH!
FOREMAN RICHARD LAUTERWASSER THANKED THE FIRST LADY...
YES, I JUST SAW YOU ON THE TUBE I THOUGHT I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE HERO IN THE FAMILY!
HAH-HA! OKAY, TAKE CARE LOIS I LOVE YOU
SORRY FOR THE INTERRUPTION, SARAH WHERE WERE WE?
OUR NEW DISARMAMENT PLAN I'VE STARTED LINING UP SUPPORT, BUT IT'LL STILL BE ROUGH GOING ON THE HILL
I DON'T KNOW HOW WE'LL EVER SELL IT TO SOME OF OUR ALLIES... LET ALONE THE OTHER NATIONS!
LEAVE THAT TO ME, SARAH
I'VE BEEN BONING UP ON MY LANGUAGES. YOU MAKE CONGRESS TOE THE LINE, I'LL FIND A WAY TO MAKE THE OTHERS LISTEN TO REASON!
THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS ARGUABLY THE MOST POWERFUL POSITION IN THE WORLD

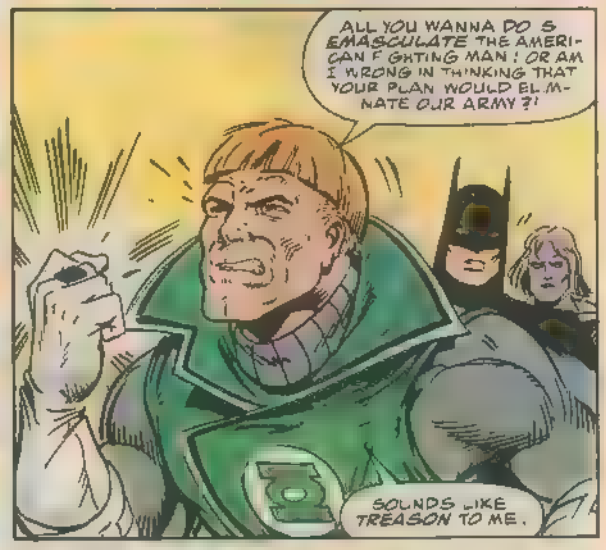
... WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN THE PRESIDENT IS ALSO THE MOST PHYSICALLY POWERFUL MAN ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH ?
SUPERMAN WAS, OF COURSE, ALREADY RESPECTED AROUND THE GLOBE... SUCH RESPECT CAN ONLY ADD TO HIS PRESTIGE AS A WORLD LEADER
BUT THAT RESPECT IS PERHAPS ACCOMPANIED BY NO SMALL BIT OF FEAR
... A FEAR OF ATTEMPTING TO BARGAIN WITH A MAN WHO CAN CHANGE THE COURSE OF MIGHTY RIVERS!
... A FEAR OF DEALING WITH A MAN WHO CAN SUDDENLY APPEAR ON ONE'S DOORSTEP... AND WHO CAN QUOTE SCRIPTURE IN ONE'S OWN TONGUE!
(... FOR IS IT NOT WRITTEN, "GOD CHANGES NOT WHAT IS IN A PEOPLE, UNTIL THEY CHANGE WHAT IS IN THEMSELVES"?)
(YES... IT IS, INDEED.)
... AND THE HAUNTING REALIZATION THAT THE TRUTH CANNOT EASILY BE HIDDEN FROM A MAN WHO CAN SEE THROUGH WALLS!
(DESPITE YOUR PROMISES, YOU CONTINUE TO OCCUPY A NATION THAT CANNOT POSSIBLY BE A DANGER TO YOU... UNLESS YOU FEAR IDEAS.)
(NO, OF COURSE NOT! BUT HOW--?)
WOULD NOT CERTAIN OTHER LEADERS FEEL UNEASY IN HIS PRESENCE ?
AND WHAT OF SUPERMAN HIMSELF? WOULD NOT SUCH A MAN OF ACTION BECOME FRUSTRATED AT THE RELUCTANCE OF OTHERS TO CHANGE THEIR WAYS ?
(WHAT YOU SUGGEST COULD LEAD TO UTTER CHAOS!)
(TRUST ME... I HAVE A PLAN TO MAINTAIN ORDER!)
COULD NOT SUCH A MAN, IN SUCH A POSITION, BEGIN TO CRAVE EVEN MORE POWER TO ACHIEVE HIS GOALS?

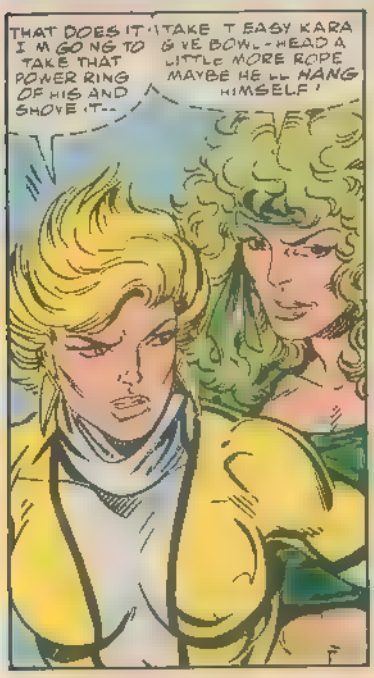
COULD NOT SUCH A MAN BECOME THE MONARCH?
FIRST, I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR ANSWERING MY SUMMONS.
SOME OF YOU ARE OLD ALLIES, SOME STRANGERS ... SOME POSSESS POWERS FAR BEYOND THOSE OF ORDINARY MORTALS, WHILE OTHERS OF YOU HAVE HONED YOUR HUMAN ABILITIES TO A STATE OF NEAR-PERFECTION...
...BUT WE ALL HAVE FOUGHT FOR THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE! WE ALL HAVE BEEN CALLED HEROES!
I'VE CALLED YOU HERE TODAY TO BRIEF YOU ON A PLAN THAT, I BELIEVE, WILL INSURE WORLD PEACE.
I HOPE I CAN CONVINCE YOU ALL TO BE A PART OF THAT PLAN!

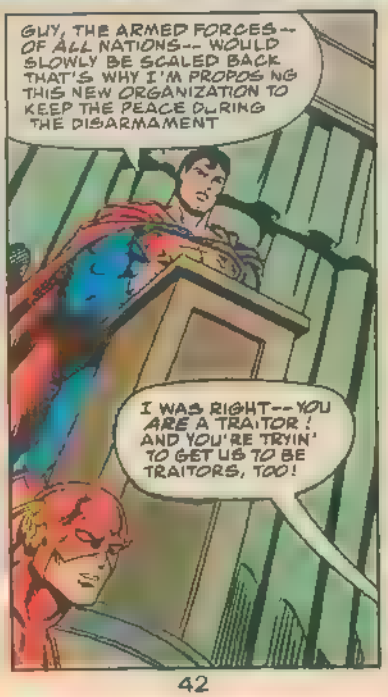

IT IS THE GOAL OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND MYSELF TO INAUGURATE A SYSTEM UNDER WHICH ALL SOVEREIGN NATIONS COULD SUCCESSFULLY DISARM.
SUCH AN UNDERTAKING WILL BE DIFFICULT...
...THE MAJOR POWERS WILL HAVE TO SET AN EXAMPLE BY ENDING THEIR ROLE AS ARMS MERCHANTS--
--AND WEAPONS REDUCTION WILL HAVE TO BE A GRADUAL PROCESS--
HE'S SERIOUS!
--BUT IT COULD BE MADE TO WORK IN OUR LIFETIMES...
...WITH YOUR HELP!
IT IS TIME FOR EARTH'S GREAT HEROES TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN WORLD AFFAIRS.
WHAT I PROPOSE IS A NEW ORGANIZATION --MERGING THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WITH OTHER GROUPS AND ENLISTING NON-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUALS--
--TO INSPECT AND VERIFY THE DISARMAMENT PROCESS... AND TO ACT AS A STABILIZING FORCE HELPING THE UNITED NATIONS TO KEEP THE PEACE AS THE WORLD'S ARMIES ARE REDUCED
IF ANYONE COULD MAKE IT WORK, HE COULD!
MY FRIENDS, IT IS WITHIN OUR POWER TO TRULY SAVE THE WORLD!
BALONEY!
WHAT?
WHO--?
GARDNER!
WHO ELSE?
DON'T TELL ME THE REST OF YOU HAVE BOUGHT INTO BLUE-BOY'S SNOW JOB?!

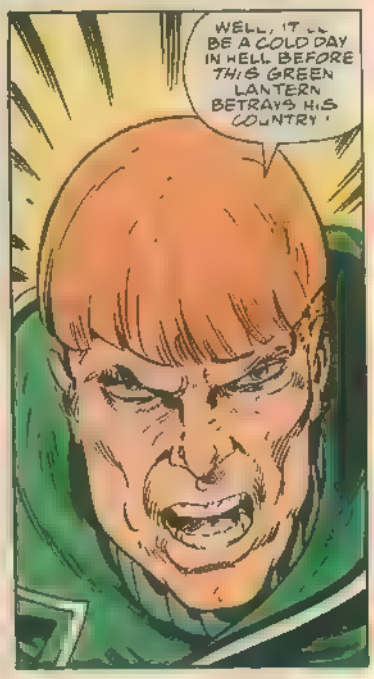

GUY--!
BACK OFF, J'ONZZ!
AFTER YOU FLATTENED THOSE ZANDIAN TERRORISTS, I ALMOST WISHED THAT I'D VOTED, KENT! HOW COULD YOU WIMP OUT LIKE THIS?!
AND WHAT IS WRONG WITH SEEKING PEACE?

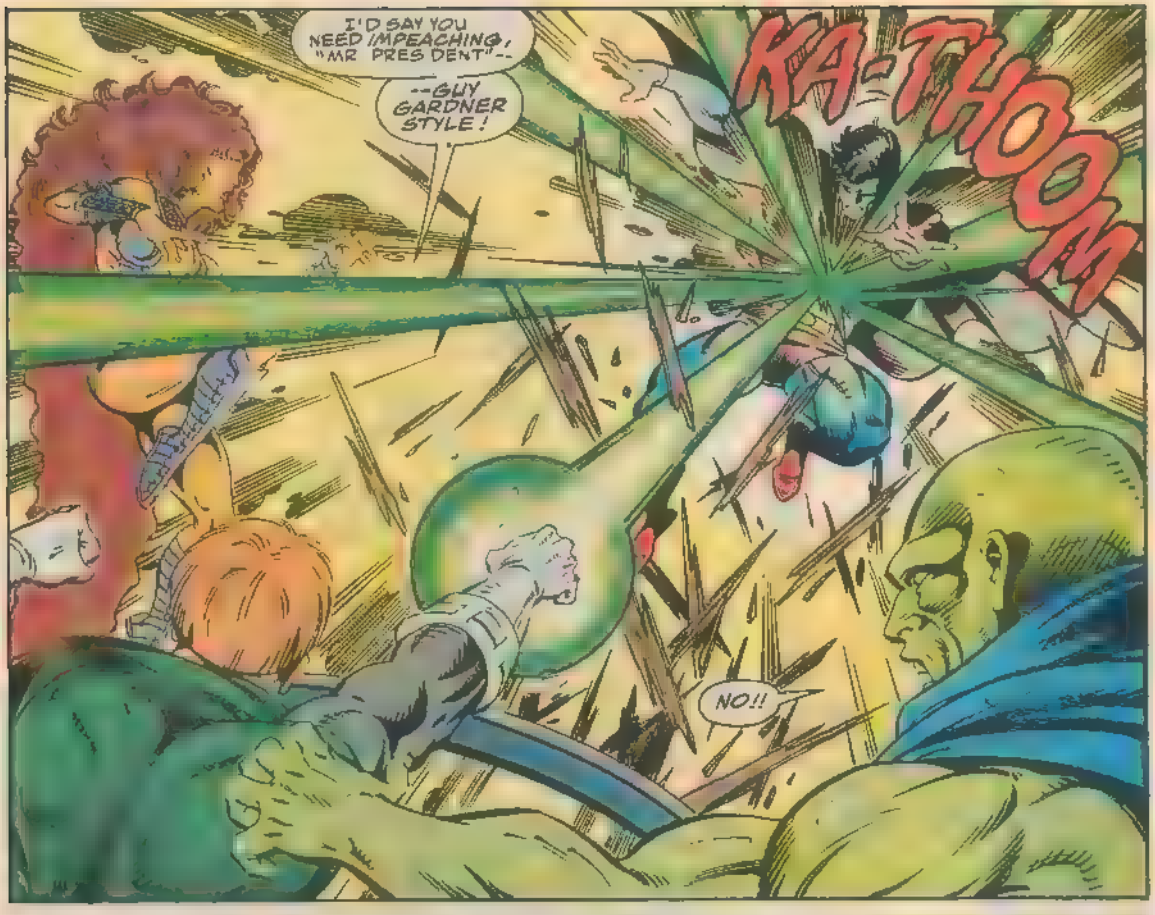

I DON'T SEE WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS, MISTER GARDNER.
ALL I WANT TO DO IS--!


ALL YOU WANNA DO IS EMASCULATE THE AMERICAN FIGHTING MAN! OR AM I WRONG IN THINKING THAT YOUR PLAN WOULD ELIMINATE OUR ARMY?!
SOUNDS LIKE TREASON TO ME.


THAT DOES IT! I'M GOING TO TAKE THAT POWER RING OF HIS AND SHOVE IT--
TAKE IT EASY KARA! GIVE BOWL-HEAD A LITTLE MORE ROPE MAYBE HE'LL HANG HIMSELF!


GUY, THE ARMED FORCES-- OF ALL NATIONS-- WOULD SLOWLY BE SCALED BACK THAT'S WHY I'M PROPOSING THIS NEW ORGANIZATION TO KEEP THE PEACE DURING THE DISARMAMENT
I WAS RIGHT--YOU ARE A TRAITOR! AND YOU'RE TRYIN' TO GET US TO BE TRAITORS, TOO!


WELL, IT'LL BE A COLD DAY IN HELL BEFORE THIS GREEN LANTERN BETRAYS HIS COUNTRY!


I'D SAY YOU NEED IMPEACHING, "MR PRES DENT"--
--GUY GARDNER STYLE!
KA-THOOM
NO!!

LET ME HANDLE HIM, J'ONN! I'VE WANTED TO PUT THIS GREEN-LANTERN-COME-LATELY IN HIS PLACE FOR A LO-O-ONG TIME
OH, YEAH-- LIKE YOU'VE GOT ROOM TO TALK, KIDDIE FLASH!

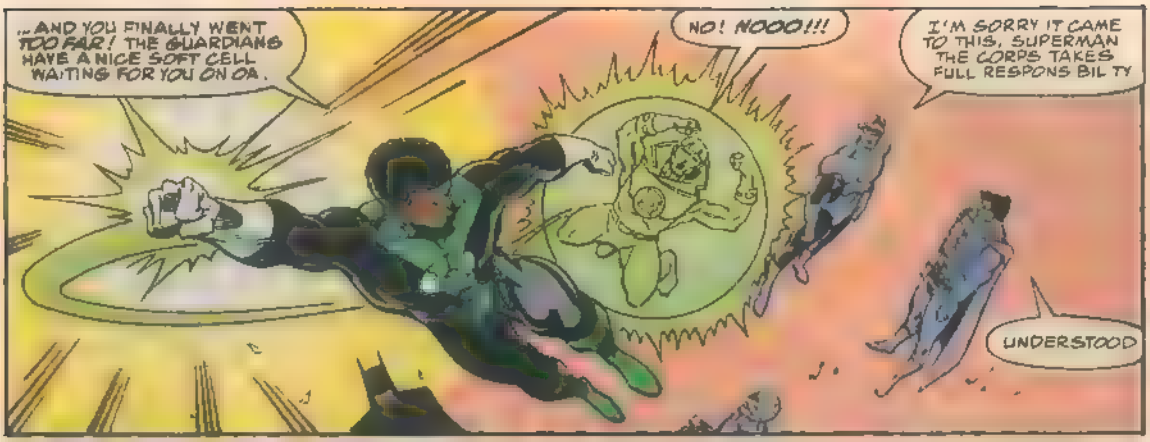
WHEN I FIRST STARTED KICKIN' BUTT, YOU WERE STILL SKIPPIN' AND JUMPIN' WITH YOUR TEEN TITANS BUDDIES!
WHUUNGH!
KID, YOU'RE NOT EVEN HALF-FAST! HAH!

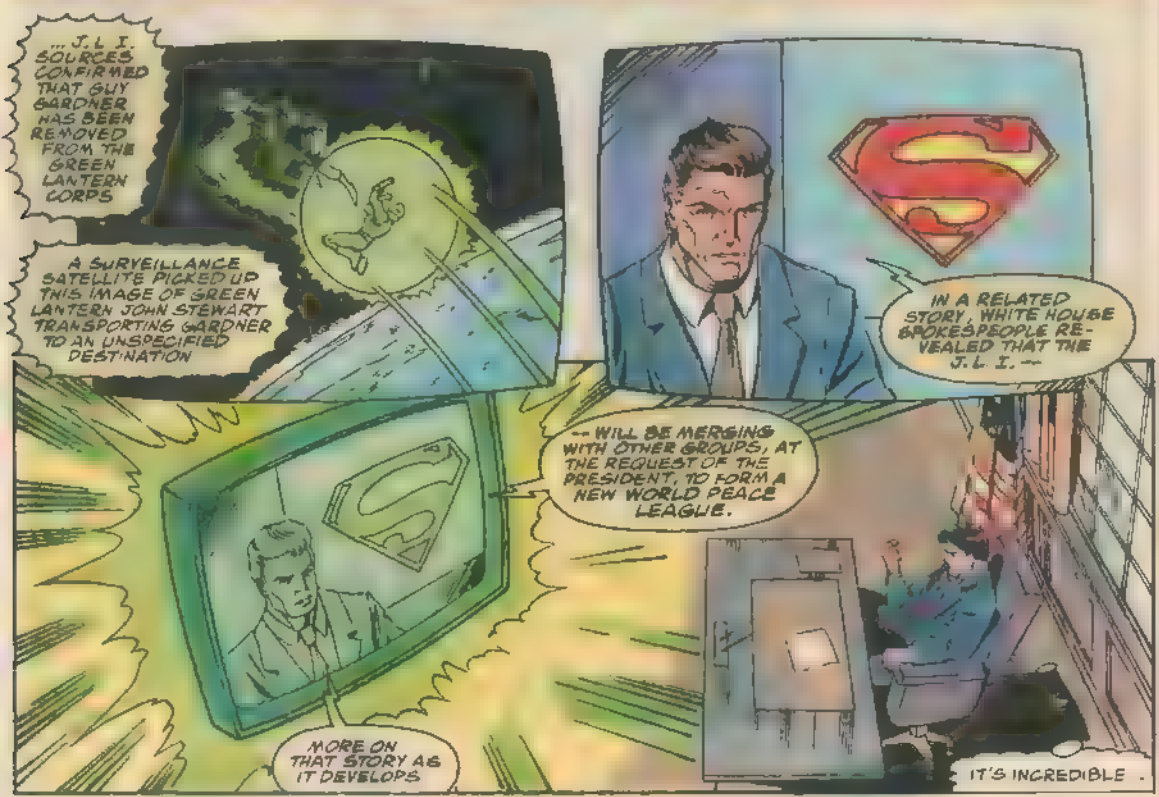
I HAVE SEEN QUITE ENOUGH OF YOUR SAVAGERY, GARDNER!
HEY, IF YOU THINK I'M GONNA LET YOU TIE ME UP WITH THAT GOLDEN ROPE OF YOURS AGA N,* YOU CAN THINK TWICE, WONDER CH CKIE!
* FIRST TIME WAS IN WONDER WOMAN # 25
LEAVE HIM TO ME, WONDER WOMAN!
EH?
GREAT GAEA!
I AM PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH MR GARDNER ON MY OWN!
YOU HEARD H M... LET THE PRESIDENT HANDLE THIS!
C'MON, SUPER-PREZ, GIMME YOUR BEST SHOT! AND AFTER I HAND YOU YOUR HEAD, MAYBE THE PUBLIC WILL VOTE ME INTO OFFICE!
"PRESIDENT GARDNER"... YE-E-AH I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT.
GARDNER... THE DAY... I CAN'T "STAND UP TO..." YOUR ABUSE...

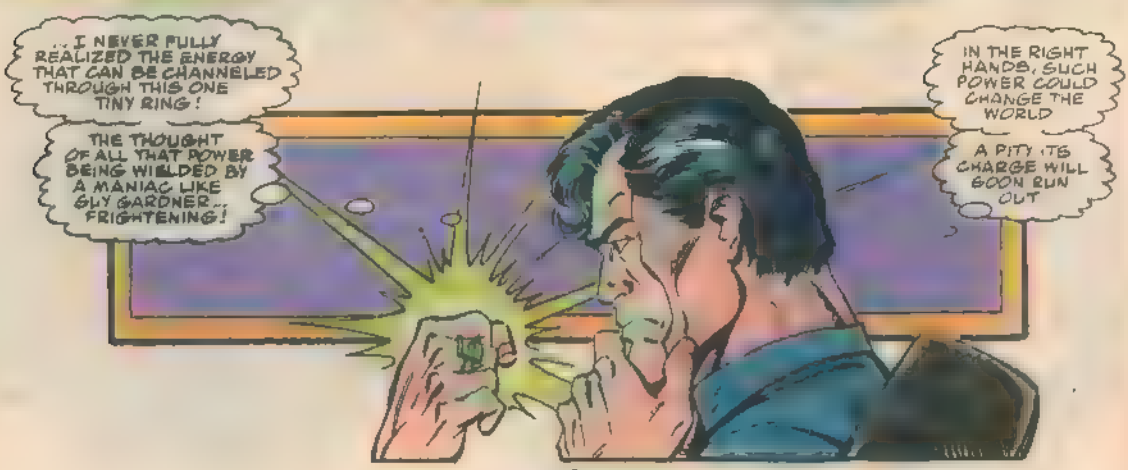
...IS... THE DAY... PIGS..
...FLY!
HEY! YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
YOU... YOU SHOULD BE SCREAMIN' IN AGONY! MY POWER RING CAN'T BE BEAT--
--NOT BACKED BY MY WILL POWER! I-- I COULD FLATTEN AN ARMY W TH THAT BEAM!
I'VE HEARD.. THAT CLAIM... BEFORE BUT IT'LL TAKE... MORE... THAN THE LIKES OF YOU... TO MAKE ME SCREAM!
CONSIDER THIS.. A CONTEST OF WILLS, GARDNER!
YOURS... VERSUS..
...MINE!
MIGHTY INDEED IS THE WILL OF SUPERMAN!
HE HAS SEIZED CONTROL OF THE POWER RING.. REASSEMBLING IT ABOUT HIS OWN FINGER!

HAD ENOUGH?
MY RING! YOU STOLE MY RING
YOU CAN'T DO THAT
WHERE THERE'S A WILL THERE'S A WAY, GUY MINE WAS STRONGER, THAT'S ALL
THAT'S MY RING.. MINE!
GIVE IT BACK GIVE IT BACK!!
WOKT
BTOK
GLY..
ARRRGH! MY HANDS!!
I THINK I'VE BROKEN MY HANDS
IT'S OVER, GARDNER
NO! IT'S NOT OVER UNTIL I SAY IT'S OVER!
THE POWER HE NOW POSSESSES IS FRIGHTENING.. ALMOST BEYOND IMAGINING!
IS THIS THE MOMENT OF MONARCH'S CREATION?

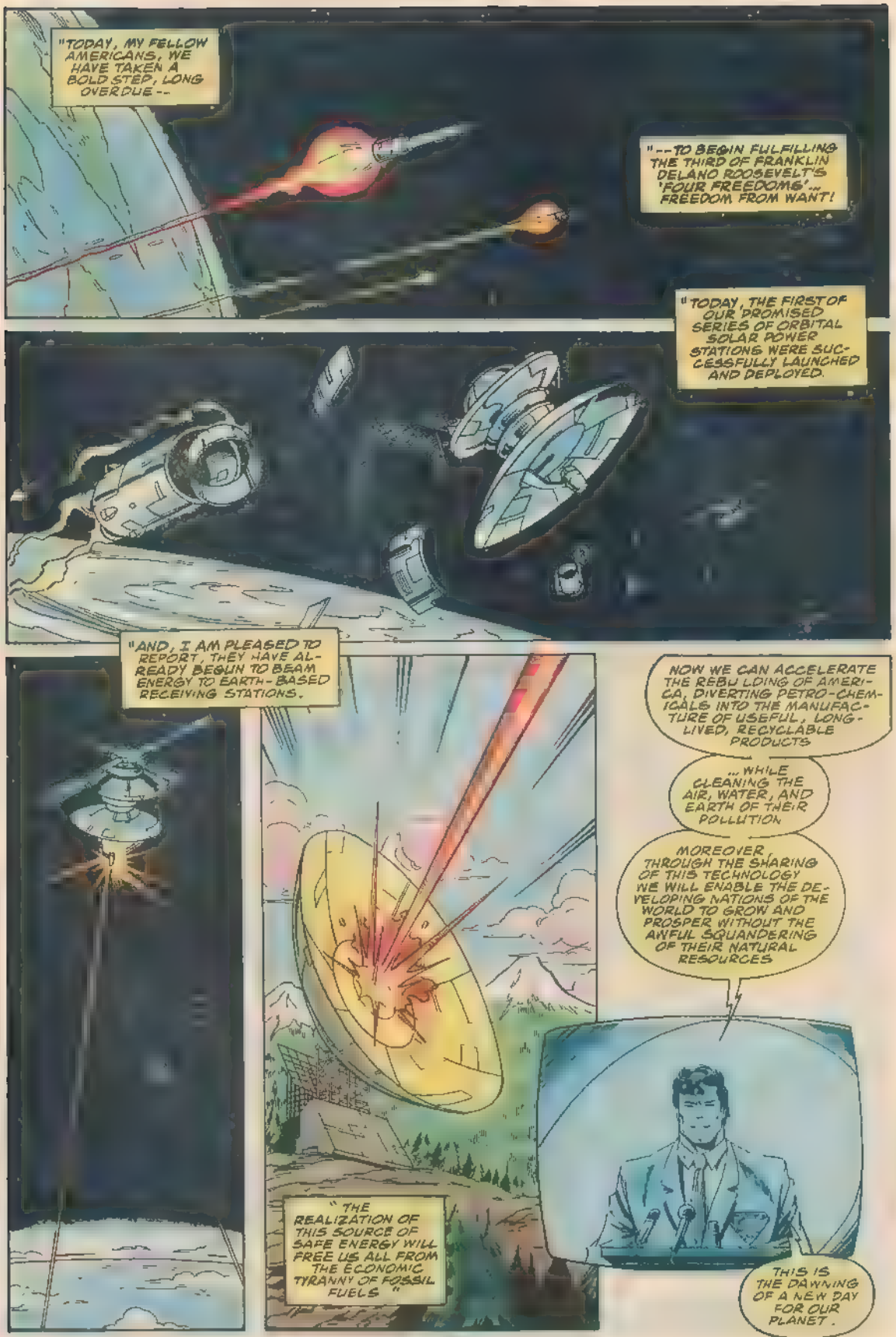
HOLD IT, SUPERMAN!
?!?
THIS HAS JUST BECOME THE BUSINESS OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS!
JORDAN STEWART.. NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE SO GLAD TO SEE YOU TWO!
JOHN,, THIS KRYPTONIAN %@#*!! JUST STOLE MY RING! GIMME YOURS SO I CAN PUT HIM IN HIS PLACE!
NO, GUY.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "NO"?! I GOTTA AVENGE THE HONOR OF THE CORPS
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO DO THAT NOW
HEY, WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'? NOT ME... HM!
JORDAN, TALK SOME SENSE INTO HIM!
SORRY GUY
YOU'VE BEEN A LOOSE CANNON FOR TOO LONG..

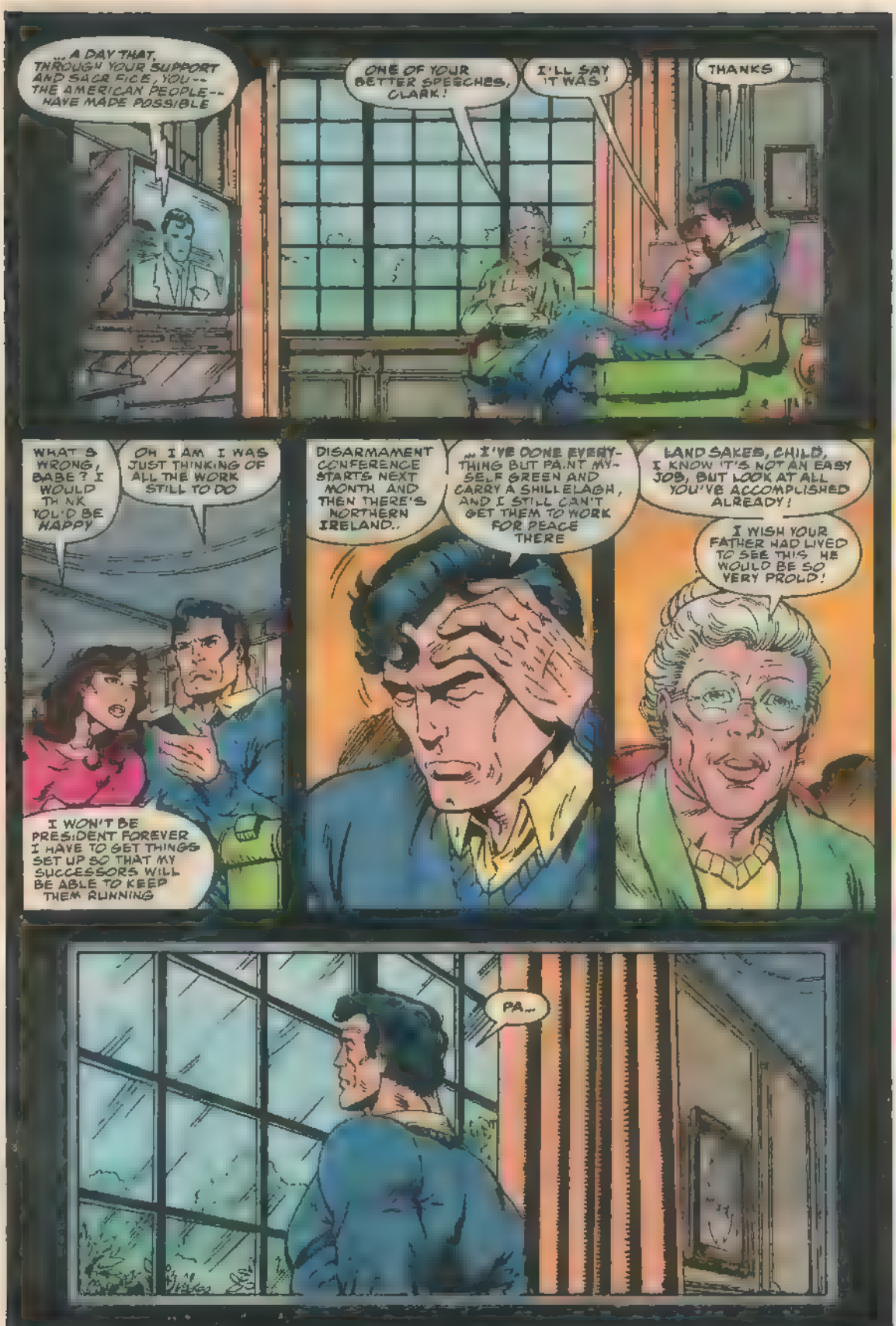

...AND YOU FINALLY WENT TOO FAR! THE GUARDIANS HAVE A NICE SOFT CELL WAITING FOR YOU ON OA.
NO! NOOO!!!
I'M SORRY IT CAME TO THIS, SUPERMAN THE CORPS TAKES FULL RESPONS BIL TY
UNDERSTOOD


...J. L. I. SOURCES CONFIRMED THAT GUY GARDNER HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS
A SURVEILLANCE SATELLITE PICKED UP THIS IMAGE OF GREEN LANTERN JOHN STEWART TRANSPORTING GARDNER TO AN UNSPECIFIED DESTINATION
IN A RELATED STORY, WHITE HOUSE SPOKESPEOPLE RE-VEALED THAT THE J. L. I. --
-- WILL BE MERGING WITH OTHER GROUPS, AT THE REQUEST OF THE PRESIDENT, TO FORM A NEW WORLD PEACE LEAGUE.
MORE ON THAT STORY AS IT DEVELOPS
IT'S INCREDIBLE .

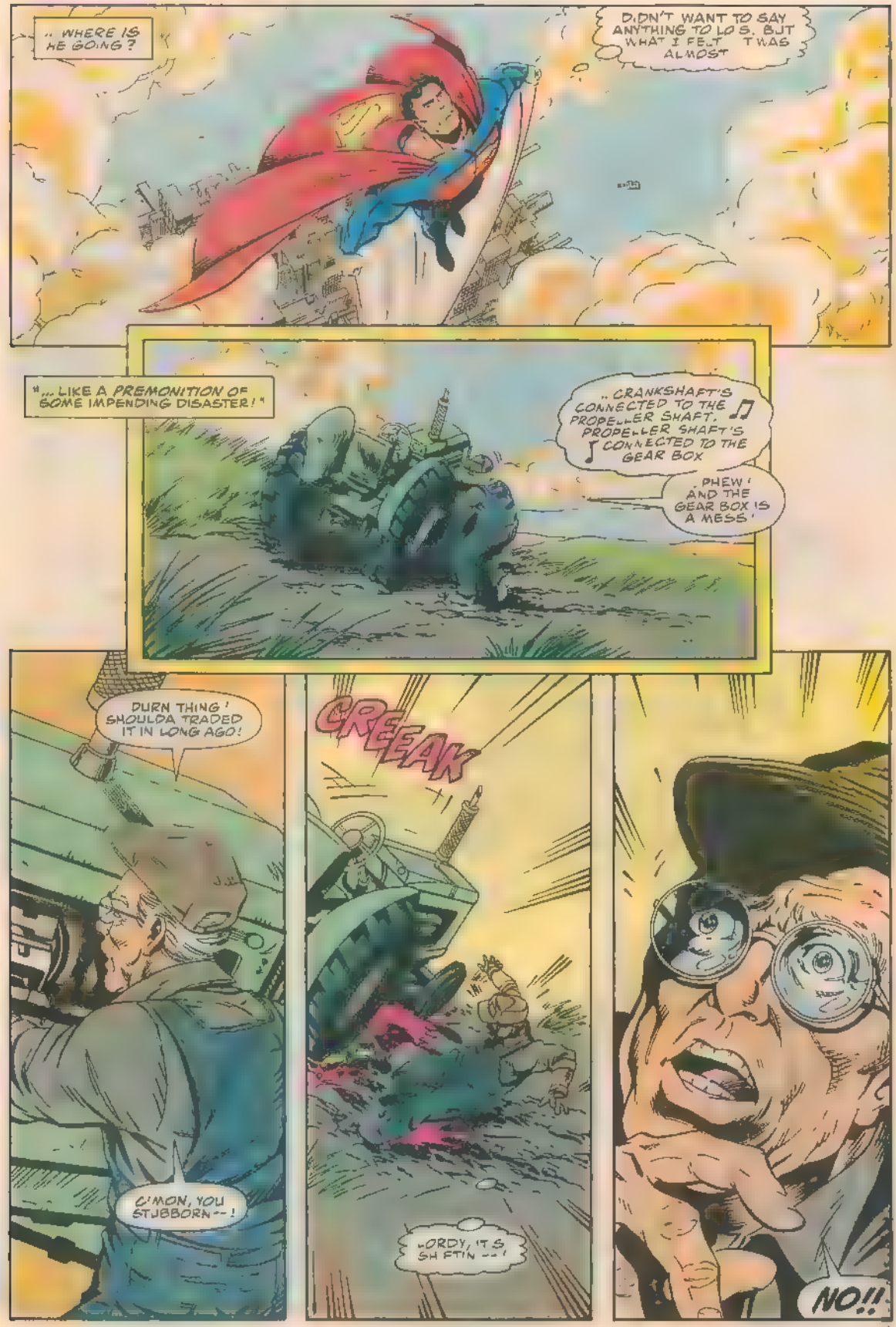

...I NEVER FULLY REALIZED THE ENERGY THAT CAN BE CHANNELED THROUGH THIS ONE TINY RING!
THE THOUGHT OF ALL THAT POWER BEING WIELDED BY A MANIAC LIKE GUY GARDNER... FRIGHTENING!
IN THE RIGHT HANDS, SUCH POWER COULD CHANGE THE WORLD
A PITY ITS CHARGE WILL SOON RUN OUT

SIR, ON BEHALF OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS, I BRING YOU GREETINGS
IT IS THE JUDGMENT OF THE CORPS -- WITH THE CONSENT OF THE GUARDIANS OF OA -- THAT YOU BE GIVEN THIS POWER BATTERY.
MR. PRESIDENT--!
AH! HAL... I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU
IT WILL ENABLE YOU TO CHARGE YOUR RING YOU UNDERSTAND THAT THE RING MUST BE CHARGED EVERY 24 HOURS?
YES... I DO.
I...
HAL I'M HONORED I TRULY AM.
BUT I DON'T THINK THIS WAS MEANT FOR ME
IT'S TEMPTING.. BUT I ALREADY HAVE SO MUCH POWER... ON SO MANY LEVELS
LORD ACTON ONCE WROTE, "POWER TENDS TO CORRUPT AND ABSOLUTE POWER CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY." I DON'T THINK I WANT THAT TEMPTATION.
GIVE THIS TO SOMEONE WHO WILL PUT IT TO GOOD USE
I UNDERSTAND
IT WILL BE DONE


"TODAY, MY FELLOW AMERICANS, WE HAVE TAKEN A BOLD STEP, LONG OVERDUE --
"--TO BEGIN FULFILLING THE THIRD OF FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT'S 'FOUR FREEDOMS'... FREEDOM FROM WANT!
"TODAY, THE FIRST OF OUR PROMISED SERIES OF ORBITAL SOLAR POWER STATIONS WERE SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED AND DEPLOYED.
"AND, I AM PLEASED TO REPORT, THEY HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO BEAM ENERGY TO EARTH-BASED RECEIVING STATIONS.
" THE REALIZATION OF THIS SOURCE OF SAFE ENERGY WILL FREE US ALL FROM THE ECONOMIC TYRANNY OF FOSSIL FUELS "
NOW WE CAN ACCELERATE THE REBUILDING OF AMERICA, DIVERTING PETRO-CHEMICALS INTO THE MANUFACTURE OF USEFUL, LONG-LIVED, RECYCLABLE PRODUCTS
...WHILE CLEANING THE AIR, WATER, AND EARTH OF THEIR POLLUTION
MOREOVER, THROUGH THE SHARING OF THIS TECHNOLOGY WE WILL ENABLE THE DEVELOPING NATIONS OF THE WORLD TO GROW AND PROSPER WITHOUT THE AWFUL SQUANDERING OF THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES
THIS IS THE DAWNING OF A NEW DAY FOR OUR PLANET.

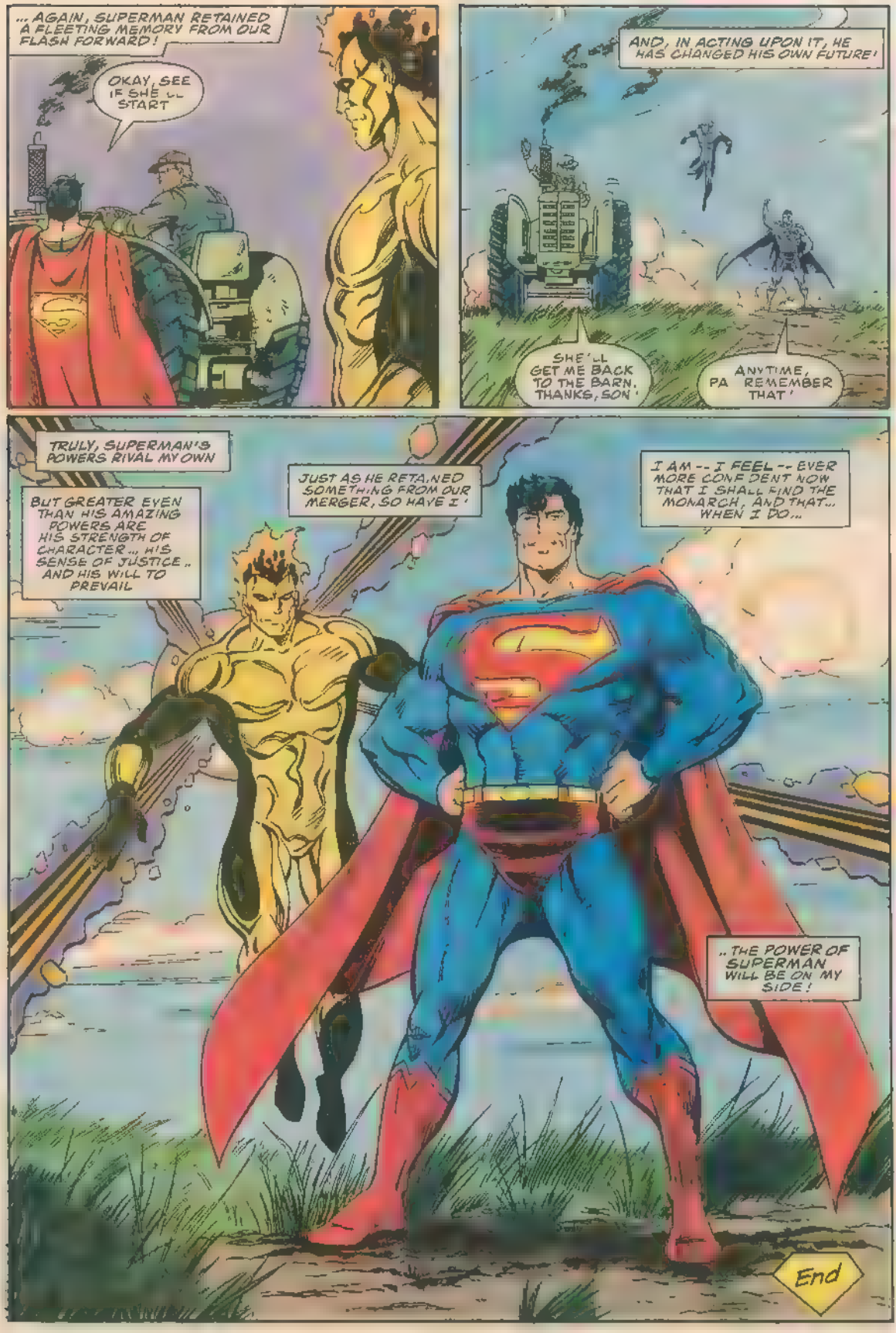

...A DAY THAT, THROUGH YOUR SUPPORT AND SACRIFICE, YOU--THE AMERICAN PEOPLE--HAVE MADE POSSIBLE
ONE OF YOUR BETTER SPEECHES, CLARK!
I'LL SAY IT WAS!
THANKS
WHAT'S WRONG, BABE? I WOULD THINK YOU'D BE HAPPY
OH I AM. I WAS JUST THINKING OF ALL THE WORK STILL TO DO
I WON'T BE PRESIDENT FOREVER I HAVE TO GET THINGS SET UP SO THAT MY SUCCESSORS WILL BE ABLE TO KEEP THEM RUNNING
DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE STARTS NEXT MONTH AND THEN THERE'S NORTHERN IRELAND..
...I'VE DONE EVERYTHING BUT PAINT MYSELF GREEN AND CARRY A SHILLELAGH, AND I STILL CAN'T GET THEM TO WORK FOR PEACE THERE
LAND SAKES, CHILD, I KNOW IT'S NOT AN EASY JOB, BUT LOOK AT ALL YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED ALREADY!
I WISH YOUR FATHER HAD LIVED TO SEE THIS HE WOULD BE SO VERY PROUD!
PA...

I HAVE SEEN ENOUGH. SUPERMAN CANNOT BECOME MONARCH
I WISH THAT FUTURE WOULD COME TO PASS
THOUGH SUPERMAN WOULD ENDURE NO SMALL AMOUNT OF TRAGEDY, HE WOULD MAKE THE WORLD A BR GHTER PLACE
.. PA ?
WHAT'S WRONG, BABE ? YOU LOOKED A LITTLE STRANGE THERE
I, I M NOT SURE I JUST HAD THE STRANGEST SENSATION --!
DING
LOOK, YOU GO ON AHEAD TO THE RESTAURANT I'LL MEET YOU THERE
WHAT? WHY ?
WHAT'S GOING ON ? CLARK--?!
I CAN'T SAY , JUST A FEELING,, HAVE TO CHECK TOUT!
THIS IS DIFFERENT


.. WHERE IS HE GOING?
DIDN'T WANT TO SAY ANYTHING TO LO S. BUT WHAT I FELT WAS ALMOST
"... LIKE A PREMONITION OF SOME IMPENDING DISASTER!"
.. CRANKSHAFT'S CONNECTED TO THE PROPELLER SHAFT. PROPELLER SHAFT'S CONNECTED TO THE GEAR BOX
. PHEW! AND THE GEAR BOX IS A MESS!
DURN THING! SHOULDA TRADED IT IN LONG AGO!
C'MON, YOU STUBBORN--!
CREEAK
LORDY, IT'S SHFTIN--!
NO!!

PA? ARE YOU OKAY? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
I... I RECKON I AM SON
THANK GOD! I'D BEEN EVEN A SECOND LATER--!
LET'S SET THIS DOWN ON LEVEL GROUND AND TAKE A BETTER LOOK AT YOU!
AW I'M OKAY.. ONLY TH NG BRUISED S MY DIGNITY
OF ALL THE DANG-FOOL STUNTS I'VE BEEN FARMING NEARLY 40 YEARS ...OUGHT TO HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO TRY AND FIX A TRACTOR ON A HILL!
THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE, ALL RIGHT..

~ THOUGHT I WAS A GONER FOR A MOMENT THERE. IT'S A GOOD THING YOU CAME ALONG WHEN YOU DID, SON
YES, A VERY GOOD THING...
A WONDERFUL THING!
I LOVE YOU, PA!
WHU--?
HEY!
NOW WILL YOU LISTEN WHEN MA TELLS YOU TO BE MORE CAREFUL?
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT... I WILL!
I... I LOVE YOU TOO, SON
NOW PUT ME DOWN... WILL YOU?
JUST REMEMBER, YOU'RE NO SPRING CHICKEN ANYMORE!
HMMPH! JUST 'CAUSE A MAN GETS A LITTLE GRAY, DOESN'T MEAN HE'S READY TO BE PUT OUT TO PASTURE!
OF COURSE NOT! BUT YOU SHOULDN'T TRY TO DO EVERYTHING YOURSELF!
HOW ABOUT IF I GIVE YOU A HAND WITH THIS?
INCREDIBLE...


... AGAIN, SUPERMAN RETAINED A FLEETING MEMORY FROM OUR FLASH FORWARD!
OKAY, SEE IF SHE'LL START
AND, IN ACTING UPON IT, HE HAS CHANGED HIS OWN FUTURE!
SHE'LL GET ME BACK TO THE BARN. THANKS, SON!
ANYTIME, PA REMEMBER THAT!
TRULY, SUPERMAN'S POWERS RIVAL MY OWN
BUT GREATER EVEN THAN HIS AMAZING POWERS ARE HIS STRENGTH OF CHARACTER ... HIS SENSE OF JUSTICE .. AND HIS WILL TO PREVAIL
JUST AS HE RETAINED SOMETHING FROM OUR MERGER, SO HAVE I!
I AM -- I FEEL -- EVER MORE CONFIDENT NOW THAT I SHALL FIND THE MONARCH, AND THAT... WHEN I DO...
.. THE POWER OF SUPERMAN WILL BE ON MY SIDE!
End

SUPERMAN BREAKS FROM THE OCEAN, HAULING A BANK ROBBER IN ONE HAND, THE SODDEN WRECK THAT WAS HIS GETAWAY CAR IN THE OTHER
I KNOW SUPERMAN'S POWER AND I AM NEVER LESS THAN AWESTRUCK IN HIS PRESENCE
I AM THE WAVE-RIDER ONCE HUMAN I HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO TACHYONS--
--ENERGY PARTICLES THAT TRAVEL FASTER THAN LIGHT--
--AND HAVE TRAVELED BACK IN TIME TO THE LAST DECADE OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.
HERE I SEEK THE SUPERHERO WHO, A MERE DECADE FROM NOW, WILL EMERGE AS THE FASCIST DICTATOR MONARCH, AND WHO WILL REORDER THE FUTURE
I HAVE TESTED SUPERMAN TWICE BEFORE, BUT I AM NOT YET SATISFIED WITH THE RESULT
THOUGH MOST LINES FOLLOW FEW LINES OF PROBABILITY, THE MOST POWERFUL INDIVIDUALS FACE MANY POSSIBLE FUTURES
WHEN LAST I TESTED HIM HE REMEMBERED AN ELEMENT OF THAT APPROACHING FUTURE AND ACTED TO CHANGE IT..
...AND IN SO DOING, HE CLOSED OFF THAT TIME-LINE AND OPENED ANOTHER
SO I WILL FOLLOW THIS NEW PATH WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

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SUPERMAN ALREADY HAS THE POWER TO BECOME THE MONARCH OF THE PEOPLE HERE ALREADY TREAT HIM LIKE A GOD...

BEYOND THE REACH OF TIME

HERE HE COMES..GET THE CAMERA ON HIM!

A SPECTACULAR POLICE CHASE THAT COULD HAVE ENDED IN TRAGEDY HAS RESULTED INSTEAD IN THE ARREST OF THE NOTORIOUS 5&L ROBBER...

...BECAUSE OF THE TIMELY ARRIVAL OF SUPERMAN..

GET BACK, FOLKS! THIS IS AN ARREST, NOT A THREE-RING CIRCUS!

HEY, SUPERMAN, HOW MUCH DID HE GET THIS TIME?

HOW'D YOU FIND HIM?

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JOHN COSTANZA - letterer
GLENN WHITMORE - colorist
DAN THORSLAND - assistant editor
MIKE CARLIN - editor

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER

WITH EVERY POLICE CAR IN TOWN SCREAMING AFTER THIS GUY..

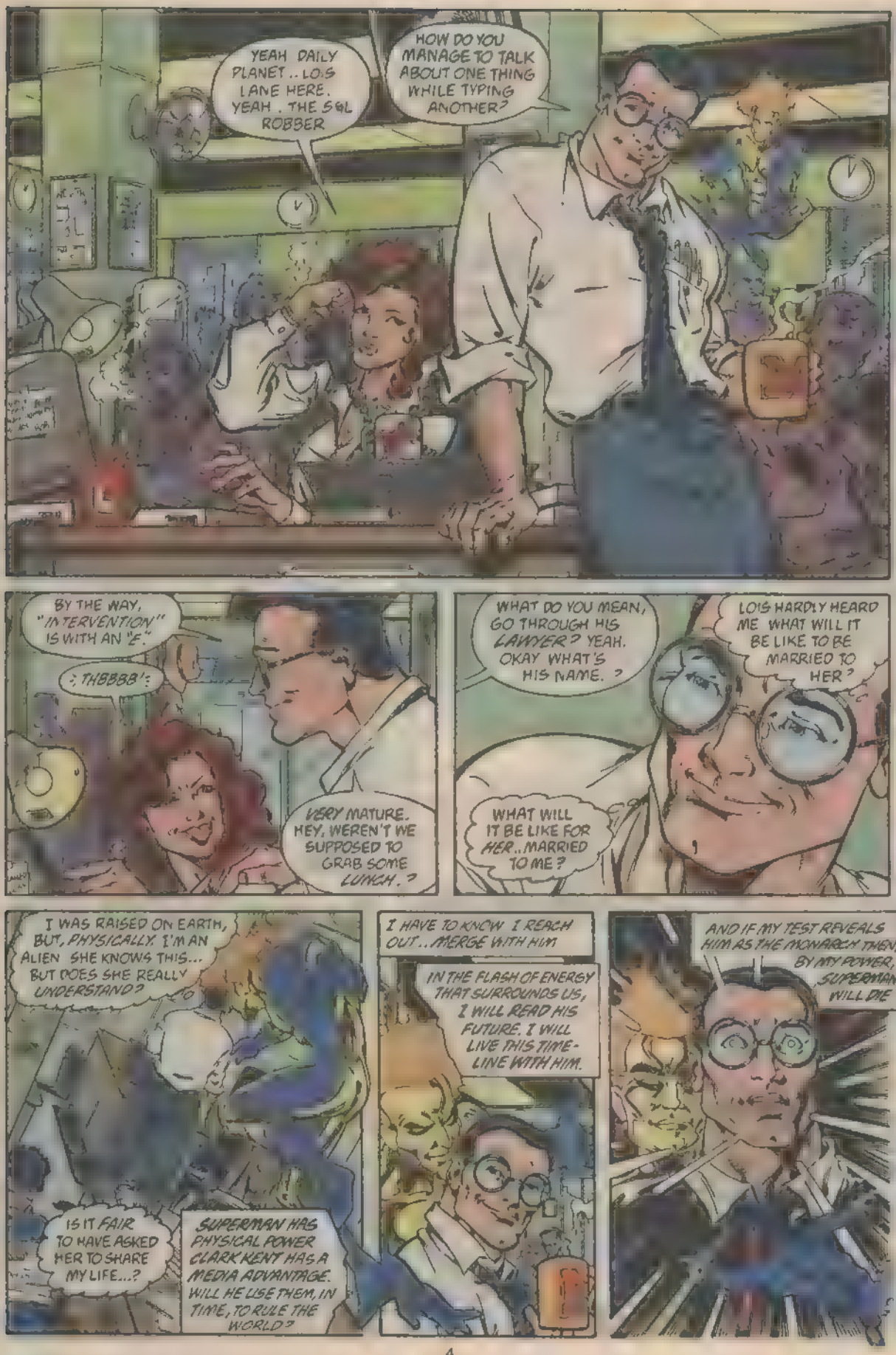
I'D HAVE TO BE DEAF NOT TO BE ABLE TO FIND HIM. EVEN WHEN HE SKIDDED OFF THE PIER.

SO THIS WAS JUST. "A DAY AT THE OFFICE" FOR Y--

I'M SORRY, MISS LANE. I'M SURE THE POLICE WILL BE GLAD TO ANSWER ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS, BUT I HAVE A PRESSING APPOINTMENT..

...WITH MY FIANCEE..

...FOR LUNCH AND A LITTLE SHOPPING.. AND I'M THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO BE LATE...!


YEAH DAILY PLANET .. LOIS LANE HERE. YEAH . THE S&L ROBBER
HOW DO YOU MANAGE TO TALK ABOUT ONE THING WHILE TYPING ANOTHER?
BY THE WAY, "INTERVENTION" IS WITH AN "E."
:THBBBB':
VERY MATURE. HEY, WEREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO GRAB SOME LUNCH.?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, GO THROUGH HIS LAWYER? YEAH. OKAY WHAT'S HIS NAME.?
LOIS HARDLY HEARD ME WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE TO BE MARRIED TO HER?
WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE FOR HER..MARRIED TO ME?
I WAS RAISED ON EARTH, BUT, PHYSICALLY. I'M AN ALIEN SHE KNOWS THIS... BUT DOES SHE REALLY UNDERSTAND?
IS IT FAIR TO HAVE ASKED HER TO SHARE MY LIFE...?
SUPERMAN HAS PHYSICAL POWER CLARK KENT HAS A MEDIA ADVANTAGE. WILL HE USE THEM, IN TIME, TO RULE THE WORLD?
I HAVE TO KNOW I REACH OUT..MERGE WITH HIM
IN THE FLASH OF ENERGY THAT SURROUNDS US, I WILL READ HIS FUTURE. I WILL LIVE THIS TIME-LINE WITH HIM.
AND IF MY TEST REVEALS HIM AS THE MONARCH THEN, BY MY POWER, SUPERMAN WILL DIE

TIME MOVES FORWARD, THEN, A BLUR UNTIL IN AN ACT OF SUPREME COURAGE, CLARK TAKES LOIS TO ANTARCTICA...
I WAS CONCEIVED UNDER A FAR, RED SUN THAT WARMED A NOW DESTROYED PLANET.
I WAS LITTLE MORE THAN AN EMBRYO WHEN MY FATHER PUT ME INTO THE SHIP THAT BROUGHT ME HERE.
YOU'VE TOLD ME, CLARK. YOU WERE AN INFANT WHEN THE KENTS FOUND YOU THE FIRST ARMS THAT HELD YOU WERE HUMAN ARMS.
BUT I'M NOT HUMAN, LOIS. THIS YELLOW SUN NOURISHES AND STRENGTHENS ME AS IT DOES NO ONE ELSE ON EARTH.
I BROUGHT YOU HERE, TO MY FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE, TO SHOW YOU WHAT I HAVE LEFT OF KRYPTON
SO YOU'LL KNOW WHAT I AM. I CAN'T CHEAT YOU, LOIS.
YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND WHO... WHAT YOU'LL BE MARRYING.. EVEN IF IT MEANS I LOSE YOU.
NO MATTER WHERE YOU COME FROM, MY DARLING, I LOVE YOU
I WANT TO MARRY YOU. IF POSSIBLE, TO HAVE YOUR CHILDREN.
ALL THIS MAY BE A MONUMENT TO SOLITUDE, BABE, BUT FACE IT, YOU'RE NOT ALONE ANYMORE!
I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER KNOWN ANYONE MORE COURAGEOUS
I ONLY HOPE SHE WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED WE'RE FROM DIFFERENT WORLDS. NO ONE CAN KNOW...
...IF WE CAN HAVE CHILDREN. WE'LL CROSS THAT BRIDGE LATER. ONE THING AT A TIME.
WE LOVE EACH OTHER... WE'RE TOGETHER... AND FOR NOW, THAT'S ENOUGH.

AGAIN A BLUR OF YEARS. AND FINALLY..

"...TO HAVE AND TO HOLD FROM THIS DAY FORWARD..

"...FOR BETTER OR WORSE FOR RICHER OR POORER.

"...IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH.

"...AS LONG AS WE BOTH SHALL LIVE"

I JUST HOPE YOU AND LOIS WILL BE AS HAPPY, SON, AS MARTHA AND I HAVE BEEN.

AND THAT YOUR CHILDREN WILL BE AS MUCH A JOY FOR YOU!..

...AS CLARK HAS BEEN TO US!

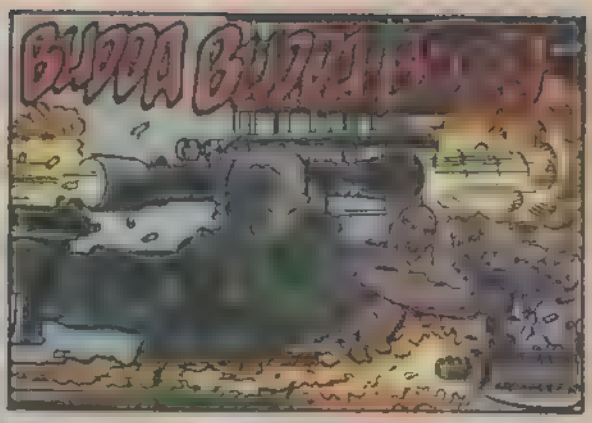
AGAIN THE BLUR OF YEARS, NO MORE EVENTFUL THAN IS USUAL IN THE LIFE OF A SUPERMAN... OR NEWLYWEDS.

THEIR ONE SORROW IS THAT, LONG AFTER THEY'RE READY FOR CHILDREN, THEY HAVE NONE.
THEY SAID THESE FERTILITY PILLS WERE EXPERIMENTAL . THAT THEY MIGHT BE DANGEROUS . BUT IT WAS A CHANCE I HAD TO TAKE.
A CHANCE THAT PAID OFF..
I LOVE SATURDAY...!
IT'S THE BEST...! AND GUESS WHAT'S EVEN MORE WONDERFUL STILL?
PANCAKES FOR BREAKFAST ?
EVEN BETTER--
JUST A MINUTE, HONEY I HEAR.
A SIREN
WHAT THE HECK...? HOW DID A BUS MANAGE TO DO THAT?
CLARK ?
SLOW DOWN A MINUTE

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF BABE YOUR SON. .OR DAUGHTER...WILL NEED ITS DADDY IN ONE PIECE
LOIS. YOU'RE SURE..?
NO QUESTION OF IT NOW GO ON
" AND HURRY BACK "
EVER SINCE I LEARNED MY REAL IDENTITY, I'VE FELT A LITTLE... ALIEN, IN SOME WAY, SO ALONE.
BUT MY CHILD WILL ALSO BE A SON OF KRYPTON. I WON'T BE THE LAST OF MY RACE ANY LONGER.
CHANGES... IN WORKING RELATIONSHIPS
CONGRATULATIONS, MY BOY!
LOOK, ROSWELL, JUST BECAUSE I'M PREGNANT, IT DOESN'T MEAN I'LL BE TAKING IT EASY
YEAH? WELL, AMBASSADOR KAFTI ARRIVES AT SEVEN... THERE'VE BEEN ASSASSINATION THREATS

...CHANGES IN CLARK'S AND LOIS'S LIVES. SMALL THINGS. A BIGGER APARTMENT AND...
...BABY FURNITURE WHAT COLOR, CLARK...?
mothers
child care
MAYBE PRIMARIES...
WELL, THAT SOLVES THE BOY-GIRL PROBLEM, ANYWAY.
BUT WHAT KIND OF CRIB? THERE'S THE OLD-FASHIONED KIND WITH WOODEN SLATS, BUT THE NEWER ONES HAVE --
HOW ABOUT THAT ONE? IT LOOKS COZY
...AND DELICATE!
MAYBE THAT ONE WOULD BE BETTER. WHAT IF OUR BABY TAKES AFTER ITS FATHER?
I'M HOPING IT WILL TAKE AFTER ITS MOTHER.
LOOK, CLARK KENT AND LOIS LANE THEY SAY THEY'RE BEING GROOMED...
...TO TAKE OVER THE DAILY PLANET WHEN OLD PERRY WHITE RETIRES AND THEY'RE SHOPPING HERE!
IF YOU CALL THAT SHOPPING THE WAY THEY'RE CARRYING ON, YOU WOULDN'T EVEN THINK THEY WERE MARRIED

BUT METROPOLIS IS IN A STATE OF CHANGE AS WELL. IT IS BECOMING A DARKER CITY, FILLED WITH VIOLENT CRIMINALS AND...
TERRORISTS... KIDNAPPERS!


BLOOD BATH!

I'VE HAD IT WITH YOUR KIND
THIS IS NOT THE KIND OF WORLD INTO WHICH MY CHILDREN WILL BE BORN

OUR GUYS!

"COUNSEL WENT ON TO NOTE THAT..."
BACK ACHES... I'LL BE GLAD WHEN THIS IS OVER...
YOW! QUITE A KICK... BE GLAD TO HAVE THE BABY FINALLY IN MY ARMS AND...
...OH GOD...

WENT A LITTLE OVERBOARD THAT TIME, DIDN'T YOU, SUPERMAN..?

THEY KIDNAPPED TWO CHILDREN MURDERED OTHERS, MAGGIE. THEY--

.. CLARK

LOIS!

Complex

LOIS! WHAT'S..?

OH GOD!

CLARK !

. LOVE YOU

NO!

WHO ARE THEY?

TERRORISTS. SUPERMAN CAUGHT UP WITH 'EM. BROKEN ARM. LACERATIONS. MAYBE INTERNAL INJURIES.

WHAT'S ALL THE NOISE?

THEY'RE SCREAMIN' 'BOUT THEIR RIGHTS

RIGHTS? MAN, I WISH SUPERMAN HAD BROKEN THEIR HEADS.

GET 'EM X-RAYED AND PREPPED FOR--

PLEASE...

HELP HER.

I'M SORRY, SON WE CAN'T NO ONE CAN..

"... SHE'S ALREADY DEAD."

MY BOY, I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW SORRY WE ARE... SUCH A LOSS TO ALL OF US..

WE'LL MISS HER.

CLARK...?

SHE DIED OF INTERNAL INJURIES, MA. INTERNAL BLEEDING. THE BABY GROWING INSIDE HER KICKED. AND SHE DIED.

IT'S MY FAULT.

LOIS KNEW THE TRUTH ABOUT YOU, SON SHE LOVED YOU

THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF GENETIC COMBINATIONS, SON YOU AND LOIS JUST STUMBLED ON A BAD ONE..

AND LOIS PAID FOR IT WITH HER LIFE!

SHE JOKED ABOUT HAVING A BABY WHO TOOK AFTER ME

I SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN THE CHANCE, BUT IT.. DIDN'T OCCUR TO ME THAT THIS COULD HAPPEN.

I. WE.. WANTED THIS CHILD SO BADLY..

BUT NOW I KNOW. I'M TRULY ALIEN, MA. TRULY ALONE, THE LAST OF MY RACE ALIVE. THE KRYPTON AN LINE ENDS WITH ME

FOR ALL THAT I LOVE THIS PLANET, MA. I FEEL LIKE THIS WORLD HAS REJECTED ME..

"... AS I NO LONGER BELONG ON EARTH"
SMOTHERED IN A MIASMA OF LOSS AND GUILT, HE BANISHES HIMSELF FROM THE ONLY HOME HE HAS EVER KNOWN
IT SHOULD NOT TAKE ME LONG TO FOLLOW THIS TIMELINE TO ITS INEVITABLE AND TRAGIC CONCLUSION
HE FLIES AT TOP SPEED, TAKING A SINGLE BREATH EVERY 2 HOURS. EVEN SO, HOW LONG CAN HIS AIR-SUPPLY LAST?
HOW MANY WEEKS... BEFORE HE LOSES HIMSELF IN DEEPEST SPACE..?

HOW MANY MONTHS WILL IT TAKE HIM TO DIE?

<ANOMALOUS READING ON THE SUB-SPACE SCANNER, SIR!>

<WHAT IS IT, LIEUTENANT?>

<UNCERTAIN. THE ENERGY PATTERNS ARE... UNUSUAL. POSSIBLY AN ALMERACIAN TRANSPORTED WITHIN AN ENERGY CASING.

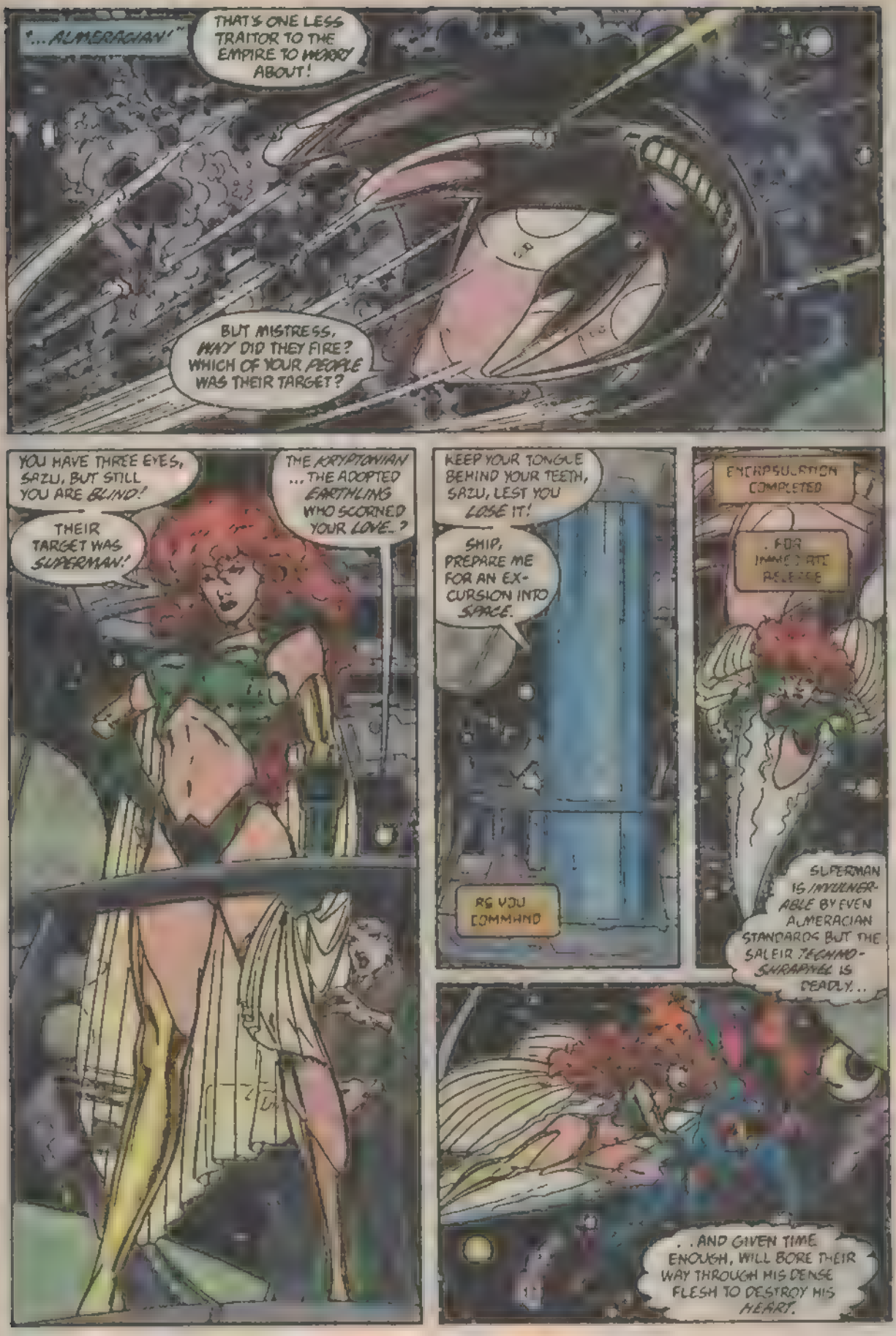
<AN ALMERACIAN! EXCELLENT!>

<OUR MAGNETIC INTERRUPTION FIELD SHOULD ALLOW PENETRATION OF EVEN ONE OF THEIR ENERGY CAPSULES!>

<SOON THERE WILL BE ONE LESS ALMERACIAN TO POLLUTE THE COSMOS!>

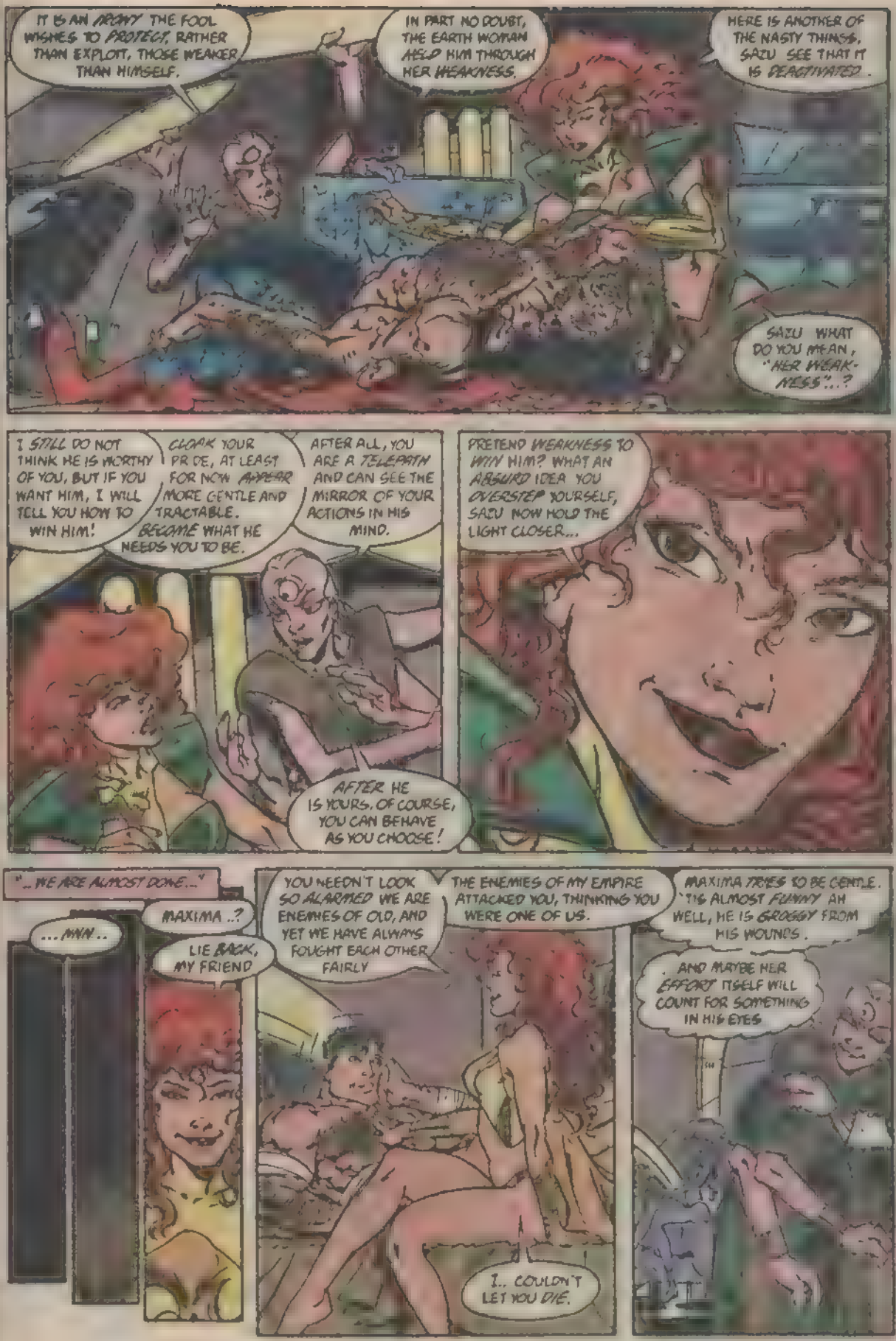
<TAKE AIM, GENTLEMEN, AND LAUNCH ON MY COMMAND.>

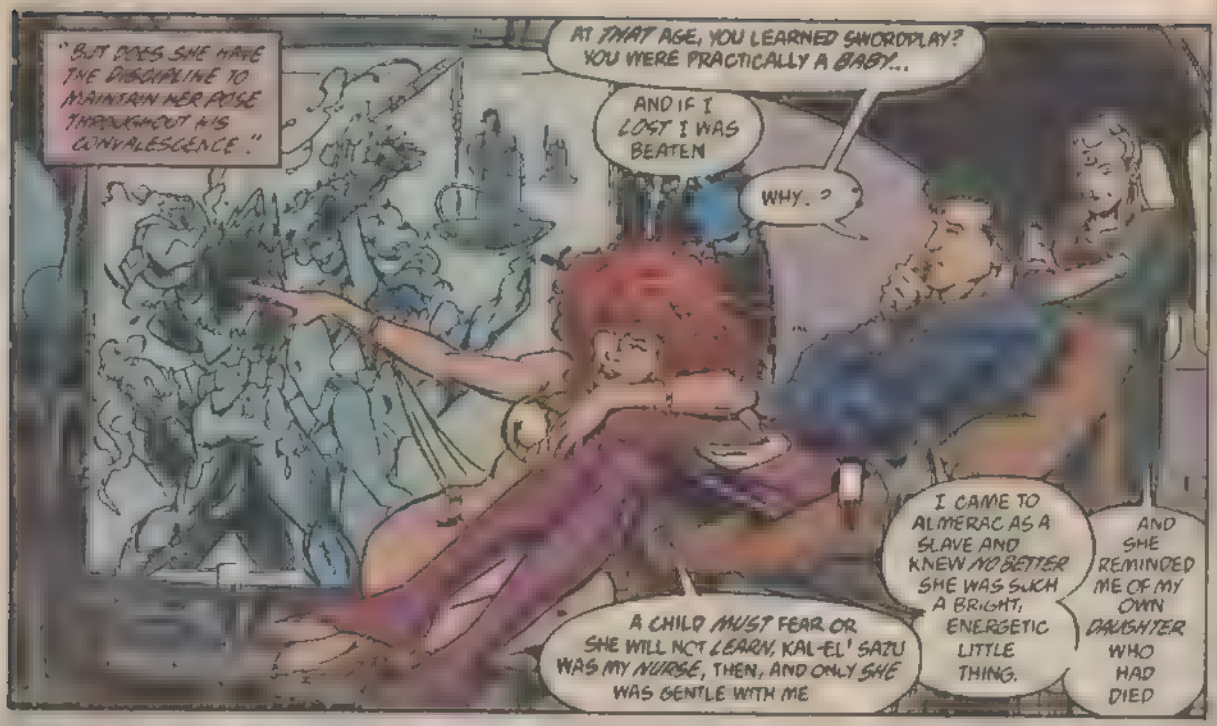
‹NOW!›
HE IS SUNK SO DEEP IN REVERIE...IN PAIN AND GUILT...THAT THE MISSILE NEARLY CATCHES HIM
THEN STARLIGHT GLINTS OFF ITS MOVING SURFACE, AND SUDDENLY HE NO LONGER WANTS TO DIE
WHAT THE HECK--?
‹MISSILE LOCKED ON TARGET, CAPTAIN! THREE SECONDS TO IMPACT.›
‹TARGET TAKING EVASIVE MEASURES. TWO SECONDS..›
‹ONE... IMPACT!›
CORUSCATING ENERGY SURROUNDING ME
...POLARIZED PIECES OF SHRAPNEL RIPPING MY FLESH...
SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM. WHY?
‹TARGET EFFECTIVELY NEUTRALIZED, CAPTAIN!›
‹WAS THAT NOT OUR INTENTION? BRING HIM ABOARD AND WE WILL WATCH HIM DIE!›
‹CAPTAIN, SUB-SPACE ENERGY READING! STAR-YACHT APPROACHING AT HYPER-SPEED..›
‹ONE OF OURS?›
‹NO SIR.›

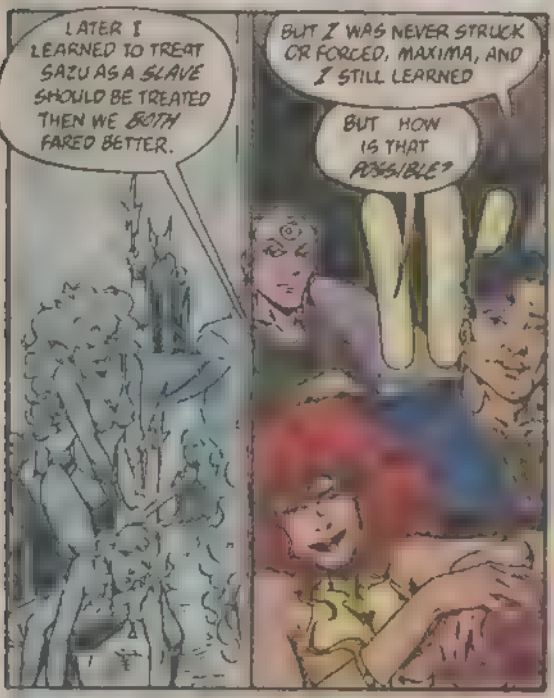

"...AMERACIAN!"
THAT'S ONE LESS TRAITOR TO THE EMPIRE TO WORRY ABOUT!
BUT MISTRESS, WHY DID THEY FIRE? WHICH OF YOUR PEOPLE WAS THEIR TARGET?
YOU HAVE THREE EYES, SAZU, BUT STILL YOU ARE BLIND!
THEIR TARGET WAS SUPERMAN!
THE KRYPTONIAN ...THE ADOPTED EARTHLING WHO SCORNED YOUR LOVE..?
KEEP YOUR TONGUE BEHIND YOUR TEETH, SAZU, LEST YOU LOSE IT!
SHIP, PREPARE ME FOR AN EXCURSION INTO SPACE.
AS YOU COMMAND
ENCAPSULATION COMPLETED
. FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SUPERMAN IS INVULNERABLE BY EVEN AMERACIAN STANDARDS BUT THE SALEIR TECHNO-SHRAPNEL IS DEADLY..
. . AND GIVEN TIME ENOUGH, WILL BORE THEIR WAY THROUGH HIS DENSE FLESH TO DESTROY HIS HEART.

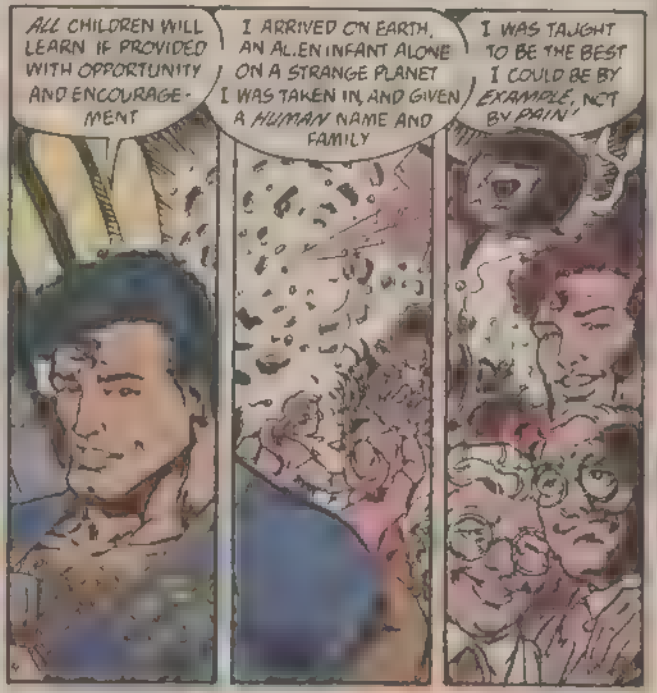
SAZU, BRING ME THE MEDICAL TERMINAL--QUICKLY!
FINALLY HE IS IN MY HANDS...AND I WILL GLADLY PAY HIM BACK FOR HIS PAST INSULTS AND HAVE MY REVENGE
A PITY AND A WASTE HE S IN TRUTH THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THE MOST PERFECT BEING I HAVE EVER KNOWN
...LOIS..
HE S CALLING SOMEONE WHO--?
NO NEED TO VIOLATE HIS INNERMOST PSYCHE. HIS RECENT PAST FESTERS LIKE A WOUND, POISONING HIS CONSCIOUSNESS.
A POWERFUL LOVE...THEN LOSS...RAW SORROW.. GUILT.' HE BLAMES HIMSELF FOR HIS WIFE'S DEATH
WHY? IT IS NOT HIS FAULT THAT HIS MATE WAS NOT GENETICALLY SUITED TO CARRY A CHILD OF KRYPTON
IF ONLY I COULD MAKE YOU WHOLE AND HAPPY LIKE SHE DI--
MAXIMA' WHAT IS THIS...CARE YOU SHOW FOR HIM? HE IS YOUR ENEMY AND YOU ARE SOON TO BE BETROTHED TO DE CINE
DE CINE IS A KRENON, A CYBORG MONSTER AND A BARBARIAN.
...FOR ALL THAT HIS TECHNO-DUCHY IS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL OF THE REBELLIOUS STATES
I WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM!
THERE IS A GREAT NEED FOR POWERFUL ALLIES LIKE THE KRENONS...

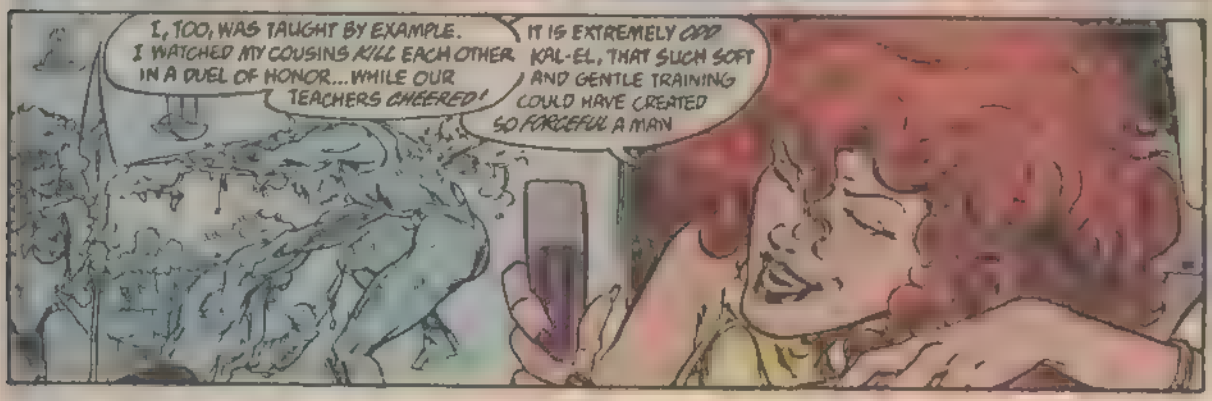
YOU NEEDN'T REMIND ME, SAZU' THE SALEIR SHIP THAT ATTACKED SUPERMAN...
.. WAS BUT ANOTHER PROOF THAT ALMERAC LOSES ITS GRIP ON THE EMPIRE
OUR GREATEST NEED IS NOT TREACHEROUS AND GREEDY ALLIES, BUT FOR OFF-SPRING STRONG ENOUGH TO DOMINATE ONCE WE ARE GONE
TO DESTROY SUPERMAN WOULD BE A WASTE OF PRIME GENETIC MATERIAL, DON'T YOU AGREE?
I ADMIT THAT I HAVE DESPAIRED OF FINDING A MATE WORTHY OF YOU... BUT THIS KRYPTONIAN IS A MERCIFUL WEAKLING!
HE MAY BE GENTLE, SAZU, BUT EVEN YOU MUST ADMIT HE IS NO WEAKLING!
NOW I MUST OPERATE TO REMOVE THE BORERS FROM HIS WOUNDS OR HE WILL SURELY DIE.
AH, WELL YOU WANT HIM, AND HE IS CERTAINLY BETTER THAN THE CYBORGS
AND UNLESS I HAVE A MATE, I WILL BE FORCED TO WED HIM TO SEAL THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES
YOU AND DE'CINE ARE GENETICALLY INCOMPATIBLE, BUT YOU AND THE KRYPTONIAN...
..ARE MOST COMPATIBLE.. GENETICALLY IF NOT PERSONALLY
BUT IT IS A FANTASY HE WILL NOT HAVE ME, IN ANY CASE. HE ONCE SAID HE HAS NO DESIRE TO FATHER DESPOTS.
AND.. I READ IN HIS MIND, SO VIVIDLY, HIS DESPERATE LOVE FOR THE EARTH-WOMAN WHO WAS TOO WEAK TO BEAR HIS SON.


IT IS AN IRONY THE FOOL WISHES TO PROTECT, RATHER THAN EXPLOIT, THOSE WEAKER THAN HIMSELF.
IN PART NO DOUBT, THE EARTH WOMAN HELD HIM THROUGH HER WEAKNESS.
HERE IS ANOTHER OF THE NASTY THINGS, SAZU SEE THAT IT IS DEACTIVATED.
SAZU WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "HER WEAKNESS"...?
I STILL DO NOT THINK HE IS WORTHY OF YOU, BUT IF YOU WANT HIM, I WILL TELL YOU HOW TO WIN HIM!
CLOAK YOUR PRIDE, AT LEAST FOR NOW APPEAR MORE GENTLE AND TRACTABLE. BECOME WHAT HE NEEDS YOU TO BE.
AFTER ALL, YOU ARE A TELEPATH AND CAN SEE THE MIRROR OF YOUR ACTIONS IN HIS MIND.
AFTER HE IS YOURS, OF COURSE, YOU CAN BEHAVE AS YOU CHOOSE!
PRETEND WEAKNESS TO WIN HIM? WHAT AN ABSURD IDEA YOU OVERSTEP YOURSELF, SAZU NOW HOLD THE LIGHT CLOSER...
"...WE ARE ALMOST DONE..."
...MM...
MAXIMA ..?
LIE BACK, MY FRIEND
YOU NEEDN'T LOOK SO ALARMED WE ARE ENEMIES OF OLD, AND YET WE HAVE ALWAYS FOUGHT EACH OTHER FAIRLY
THE ENEMIES OF MY EMPIRE ATTACKED YOU, THINKING YOU WERE ONE OF US.
I.. COULDN'T LET YOU DIE.
MAXIMA TRIES TO BE GENTLE. 'TIS ALMOST FUNNY AH WELL, HE IS GROGGY FROM HIS WOUNDS.
. AND MAYBE HER EFFORT ITSELF WILL COUNT FOR SOMETHING IN HIS EYES


"BUT DOES SHE HAVE THE DISCIPLINE TO MAINTAIN HER POISE THROUGHOUT HIS CONVALESCENCE."
AT THAT AGE, YOU LEARNED SWORDPLAY? YOU WERE PRACTICALLY A BABY...
AND IF I LOST I WAS BEATEN
WHY...?
I CAME TO ALMERAC AS A SLAVE AND KNEW NO BETTER SHE WAS SUCH A BRIGHT, ENERGETIC LITTLE THING.
AND SHE REMINDED ME OF MY OWN DAUGHTER WHO HAD DIED
A CHILD MUST FEAR OR SHE WILL NOT LEARN, KAL-EL' SAZU WAS MY NURSE, THEN, AND ONLY SHE WAS GENTLE WITH ME


LATER I LEARNED TO TREAT SAZU AS A SLAVE SHOULD BE TREATED THEN WE BOTH FARED BETTER.
BUT I WAS NEVER STRUCK OR FORCED, MAXIMA, AND I STILL LEARNED
BUT HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?


ALL CHILDREN WILL LEARN IF PROVIDED WITH OPPORTUNITY AND ENCOURAGEMENT
I ARRIVED ON EARTH, AN AL.EN INFANT ALONE ON A STRANGE PLANET I WAS TAKEN IN, AND GIVEN A HUMAN NAME AND FAMILY
I WAS TAUGHT TO BE THE BEST I COULD BE BY EXAMPLE, NOT BY PAIN!


I, TOO, WAS TAUGHT BY EXAMPLE. I WATCHED MY COUSINS KILL EACH OTHER IN A DUEL OF HONOR... WHILE OUR TEACHERS CHEERED!
IT IS EXTREMELY ODD KAL-EL, THAT SUCH SOFT AND GENTLE TRAINING COULD HAVE CREATED SO FORCEFUL A MAN

WHA-WHOOOM!
WHAT THE HECK?
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK! MAXIMA'S INFATUATION WITH THIS KRYPTONIAN HAS CAUSED HER TO GROW CARELESS!
SAZU IS FURIOUS WITH ME! DOES SHE REALLY THINK ME SUCH A CARELESS FOOL?
I STEERED OUR COURSE PURPOSELY TOWARD THE CHENNOPS SHIP, HOPING IT WOULD TAKE THE BAIT AND ATTACK ME!
IT'S THE CHENNOPS! THEY'RE MONSTERS, KAL-EL. PART OF THE REBELLION AGAINST ALMERAC.
THEY LOOK SO FIERCE, SO IMPRESSIVE. HE COULDN'T KNOW HOW WEAK THEIR WEAPONS REALLY ARE
...NOR THAT THEY COULD DO MY SHIP NO REAL DAMAGE.
SUPERMAN WILL TIE THEM INTO A KNOT TO PROTECT ME AND I WILL ADMIRE HIM AND THANK HIM PRETTILY

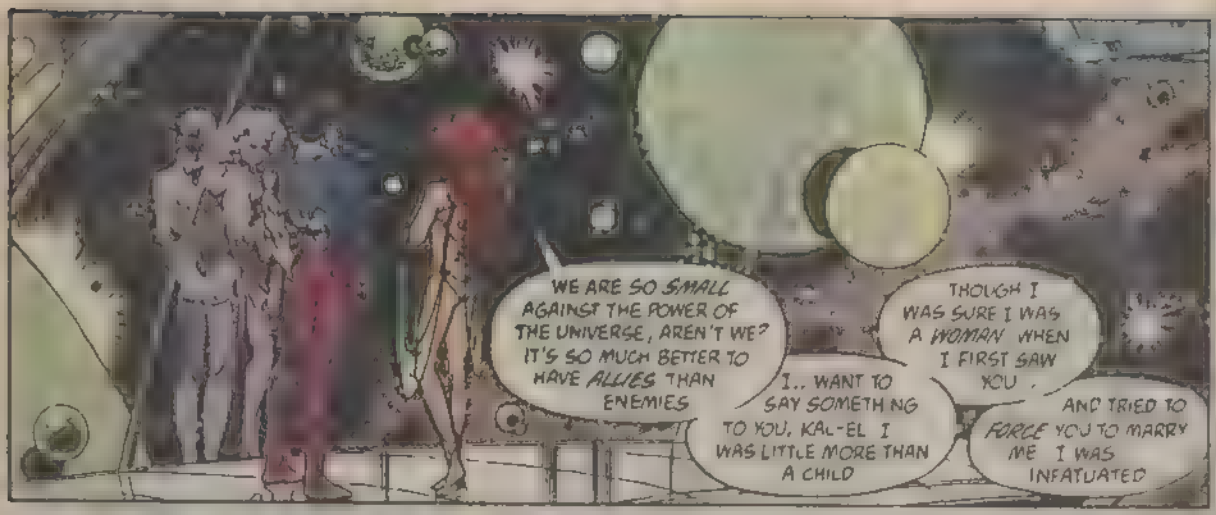
HERE COMES ANOTHER BARRAGE!
SKRAAA-AA-AA-A

.. OR WE WILL BE SUCKED INTO--
OH NO! SAZU!
A DEEP BREATH WHILE THERE'S AIR TO BREATHE ..
MAXIMA'S RIGHT TO HURRY. SAZU IS VULNERABLE TO THE VACUUM OF SPACE
I MUST HURRY!
SUPERMAN .. BEHIND US!
I SEE THEM BUT WE MUST GET SAZU INSIDE, QUICKLY!
THEY'RE FIRING ON US! DON'T WORRY! I, AT LEAST, AM INVULNERABLE TO CHEMNOPS WEAPONS.
AARGH!
THEY AREN'T WHO I THOUGHT. SHELL OF. SHIP IS CHEMNOPS.
...BUT... WEAPONS... KRENON SUPER WEAPONS
INTO THE ESCAPE POD! IF THEIR SHIP BLOWS, THEY'LL BE SAFE HERE!
MAX TOOK OUT SEVERAL ENEMIES BEFORE SHE FAINTED..

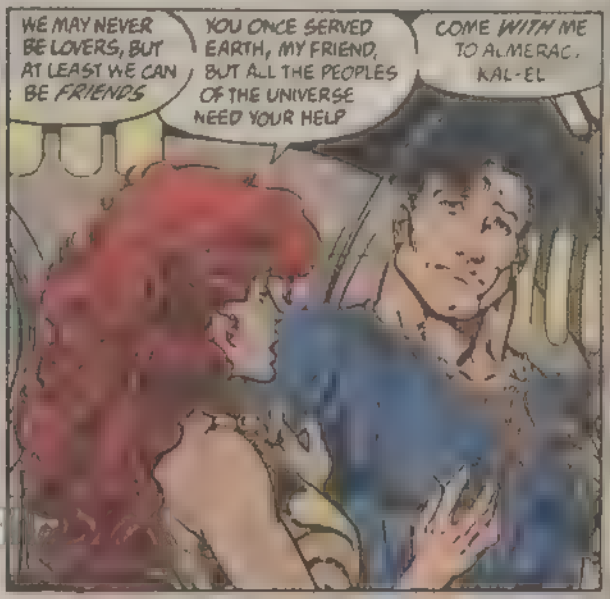
...ONLY ABOUT A THOUSAND LEFT TO GO!
AT LEAST THE SHIELDS OF MAX'S SHIP HAVE ACTIVATED..
...BUT THE CHENNOPS ENERGY WEAPON IS BURNING THROUGH ITS HULL!
HER SHIP'S NOT A BATTLE CRUISER..MORE LIKE A PLEASURE YACHT I DON'T THINK IT CAN TAKE MUCH MORE
BETTER STOP THE R FIRE.
AND QUICKLY!

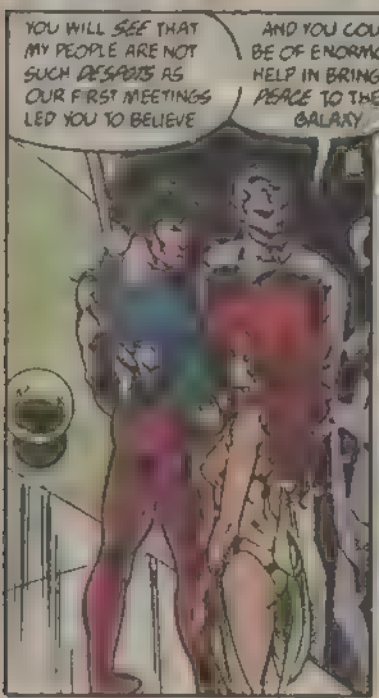
WEAPON'S ROOM IS SHIELDED IN A LEAD ALLOY. CAN'T SEE THROUGH IT TO TELL HOW TO DEACTIVATE IT!
BUT IT USES TREMENDOUS ENERGY!
(HE'S BREACHED THE HULL OF OUR SHIP-- HEADING TOWARD THE ENGINE ROO-- AIEEE!)
(WITH HIS POWER HE-- DESTROY IT! EVEN AS WE DESTROY THE ALIBERGAIAN!)
(ENTER THE LIFE PODS! ABANDON SHIP! REPEAT! ABANDON SHIP!)
THEY'RE SCURRYING FOR THE LIFE PODS! BUT THE SHIP'S CONTINUING TO FIRE ON MAK'S YACHT!
THE WEAPON MUST BE AUTOMATIC AND COMPUTER CONTROLLED.
ONLY ONE THING TO DO NOW! DESTROY THE ENERGY SOURCE AND CRIPPLE THE WEAPON!
(ENGINE IS GOING PROMPT CENTRAL! ABANDON SHIP YOU HAVE ONE SECO--)
IT IS DONE!

YOUR SUGGESTION THAT I ACT THE HELPLESS NINNY WAS TOO CLEVER BY HALF, SAZU, AND WE WERE LUCKIER THAN WE DESERVED
MY PRETENSE IS WORTHLESS IF IT RENDERS ME SO TRULY HELPLESS.
READ HIS MIND, MISTRESS I AM CERTAIN YOU WILL FIND YOUR PLOY WORKED.
?!
NOW YOU MUST THANK HIM
AND HE WILL READ HER SINCERITY..
THIS IS..DIFFICULT FOR ME, KAL-EL I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IN CONTROL OF MY OWN DESTINY...
. BUT WITHOUT YOUR HELP, I WOULD HAVE BEEN THEIR CAPTIVE, RATHER THAN THEY, MINE
YOU SAVED MY LIFE, MAXIMA IT WAS MY PLEASURE, AND PRIVILEGE, TO AID YOU
MAYBE SAZU WAS RIGHT, THAT GENTLENESS MIGHT WIN HIM, AFTER ALL.
AND SINCE HE ACCEPTED MY THANKS SO GRACIOUSLY, PERHAPS HE DESERVES AN APOLOGY AS WELL...


WE ARE SO SMALL AGAINST THE POWER OF THE UNIVERSE, AREN'T WE? IT'S SO MUCH BETTER TO HAVE ALLIES THAN ENEMIES
I.. WANT TO SAY SOMETHING TO YOU, KAL-EL I WAS LITTLE MORE THAN A CHILD
THOUGH I WAS SURE I WAS A WOMAN WHEN I FIRST SAW YOU.
AND TRIED TO FORCE YOU TO MARRY ME I WAS INFATUATED

AND WANTED YOU AS A GREEDY CHILD WANTS A NEW WEAPON I WAS SPOILED TOO USED TO GETTING MY OWN WAY
YOUR REJECTION HURT ME. DEEPLY AND I LASHED OUT AT YOU, TO FORCE YOU TO LOVE ME
BUT I'M OVER THAT NOW, TRULY I'M OLDER. AND WISER. AND KNOW LOVE MUST BE WON NOT FORCED


WE MAY NEVER BE LOVERS, BUT AT LEAST WE CAN BE FRIENDS
YOU ONCE SERVED EARTH, MY FRIEND, BUT ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE UNIVERSE NEED YOUR HELP
COME WITH ME TO ALMERAC, KAL-EL

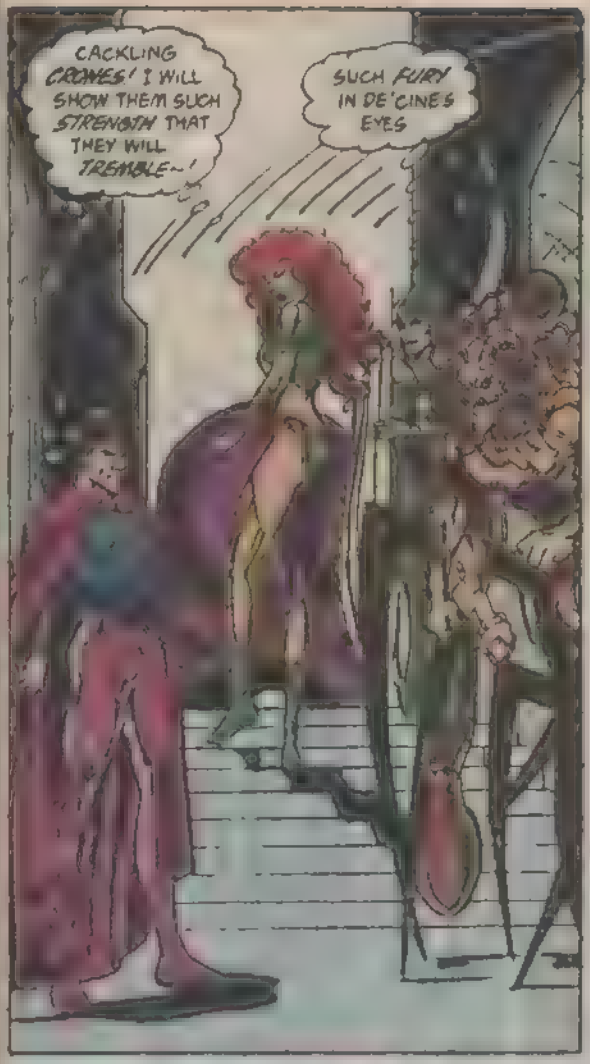

YOU WILL SEE THAT MY PEOPLE ARE NOT SUCH DESPOTS AS OUR FIRST MEETINGS LED YOU TO BELIEVE
AND YOU COULD BE OF ENORMOUS HELP IN BRINGING PEACE TO THE GALAXY

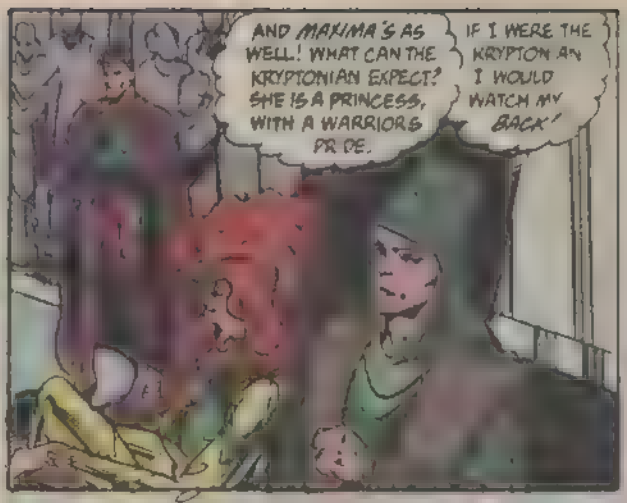
COME WITH YOU? WHY NOT? I HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.

SUCH OUTRAGEOUS FLATTERY AND HE BELIEVED EVERY WORD OF IT MAXIMA HAS BECOME MORE CONVINCING IN HER DECEPTION
IF IT REMAINS A DECEPTION!

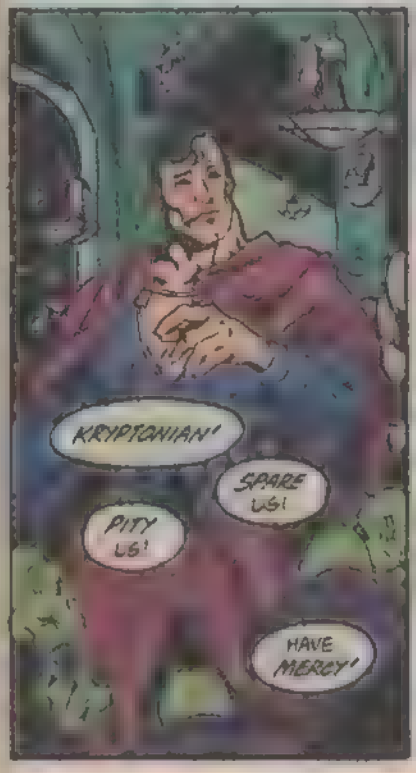
ALMERAC
YOU MUST BE GLAD TO BE HOME
ORDINARILY I WOULD BE, BUT THE LORDS OF ALMERAC ARE DISCUSSING A PEACE TREATY WITH THE KRENON CYBORGS.
..AND TO CEMENT IT A BETROTHAL BETWEEN ME AND THEIR PRINCE DE'CINE
DE'CINE WANTS AN HEIR OF THE ALMERACIAN BLOODLINE..
...FOR WHICH HIS MOTHER, THEIR QUEEN IS SUPPOSEDLY WILLING TO PAY AN ENORMOUS AND UNLIKELY PRICE
SHE CLAIMS SHE WILL STOP SUPPLYING THE REBELS WITH KRENON WEAPONS
SHE WILL, OF COURSE, BREAK THE TREATY THE MINUTE IT SUITS HER
CAN THEY FORCE YOU TO MARRY AGAINST YOUR WILL?
IT'S MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT.
I OWE THE EMPIRE PROGENY, AND SINCE I HAVE BEEN LAX IN CHOOSING A MATE, IT IS THEIR RIGHT TO CHOOSE ONE FOR ME
DE'CINE IS A BRUTE. I LOATHE HIM BUT THERE IS MY DUTY TO MY EMPIRE TO CONSIDER
AAAAAAAA

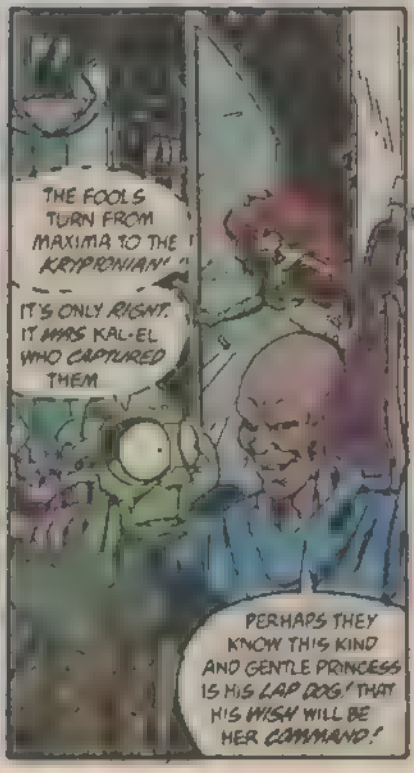
AT LAST YOU DEIGN TO QUIT YOUR WANDERINGS, AND RETURN TO GREET YOUR BETROTHED
COME TO MY CHAMBERS, FEMALE, WE HAVE MUCH TO DISCUSS
YOU FORGET YOURSELF DECINE I AM NOT YET YOURS TO COMMAND
AND ANY DISCUSSION MUST BE WITH THE MINISTERS OF STATE
YOU DENY TO ME WHAT YOU HAVE FREELY GIVEN TO THIS, THIS SCION OF A FORGOTTEN WORLD?
WHY, THE VERY CAPITOL BUZZES WITH THE TALES OF YOUR EXPLOITS!
KEEP YOUR HANDS FROM HER! AND YOUR FILTHY THOUGHTS TO YOURSELF!
WHO ARE YOU TO INTERVENE KRYPTONIAN ARE YOUR INTENTIONS SO HONORABLE, THEN?
WILL YOU FIGHT ME FOR THE RIGHT TO MARRY HER?
NO! THAT IS, I--
HER FASCINATION WITH THE KRYPTONIAN IS NEAR LEGEND.
AND HE HAS SPURNED HER! AGAIN!
PFAH! HOW CAN I THINK TO WED SUCH A FOOL?
HE VOICES WHAT ALL OF THEM ARE THINKING THEY ARE LAUGHING AT ME. THEY THINK MY LOVE A WEAKNESS.
BRING IN THE REBEL PRISONERS!


CACKLING CROWES! I WILL SHOW THEM SUCH STRENGTH THAT THEY WILL TREMBLE~!
SUCH FURY IN DE'CINE'S EYES


AND MAXIMA'S AS WELL! WHAT CAN THE KRYPTONIAN EXPECT? SHE IS A PRINCESS, WITH A WARRIORS PRIDE.
IF I WERE THE KRYPTONIAN I WOULD WATCH MY BACK!

AH, THE PRISONERS! THEY WILL CRINGE BEFORE ME, BEGGING FOR MY MERCY. THAT SHOULD QUIET THE SNIGGERERS
(THERE HE IS. OUR CONQUEROR!)


KRYPTONIAN!
SPARE US!
PITY US!
HAVE MERCY!


THE FOOLS TURN FROM MAXIMA TO THE KRYPTONIAN!
IT'S ONLY RIGHT. IT WAS KAL-EL WHO CAPTURED THEM
PERHAPS THEY KNOW THIS KIND AND GENTLE PRINCESS IS HIS LAP DOG! THAT HIS WISH WILL BE HER COMMAND!

ENOUGH!

YOU HAVE GONE TOO FAR! NOW LEARN, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE, WHO IS YOUR MISTRESS!
MISTRESS, NO!
YOU ARE FOOLS TOO USELESS TO LET LIVE! YOU WILL BE DRAGGED BENEATH THE WHEELS...
WE MEANT NO OFFENSE
MERCY!
YOUR EYES EATEN BY INSECTS. YOUR LIMBS TORN FROM YOUR BODIES!
NO! THEY BEGGED ME FOR MERCY! AND BY GOD I DIDN'T CAPTURE THEM TO SEE THEM TORTURED!
THIS IS MY WORLD AND YOU ARE A STRANGER HERE. HOW DARE YOU THINK THAT YOU CAN GIVE ME ORDERS!
GET OUT OF THE ROOM YOU SKRAGGOTS!
GET OUT!
NOW, MAN OF STEEL, IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO BEG FOR THE SAME MERCY YOU WOULD SHOW MY ENEMIES!
MAXIMA, WAIT! THINK! BEFORE YOU DO SOMETHING YOU'LL REGRET!

I REGRET NOTHING, KRYPTONIAN BUT THAT I SAVED YOUR WORTHLESS LIFE!
I WAS A FOOL! YOU'RE NO WARRIOR! NOR ARE YOU WORTHY--
SHEATHE THAT WHIP--
--OR LOSE IT!
DO NOT WHAT ARE YOU DOING--? IT CONTAINS ENORMOUS ENERGY! ITS RELEASE--!
THE EXPLOSION BLEW ME HALFWAY 'CROSS THE ROOM?!
DON'T INSULT ME KRYPTONIAN! I AM NEARLY AS INVULNERABLE AS YOU!
HA! YOU THINK YOU ARE SO FINE AND GENTLE THAT YOUR WAY IS SO SUPERIOR
MAXIMA ? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
THIS IS WHAT I THINK OF YOUR GENTLENESS
KRAK-BA-DOOM!

...AND YOUR MERCY!

THE *THRONE*! SHE FLUNG THE *THRONE* AT ME!

CRASH

ANGRY THOUGH SHE IS, SHE *MUST* HAVE REALIZED I'D DODGE IT EASILY!

THE SUPPORT PILLAR! KAL-EL, *RUN*! THE CEILING--

KRAK

KROOM

MAXIMA..?

MAXIMA, WHERE *ARE* YOU?

THERE, BENEATH THE *RUBBLE*!

MAXIMA!

MAX, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I WAS SO ANGRY I WANTED TO KILL YOU
WHY DIDN'T YOU LEAVE ME BURIED THERE? WHY DO YOU CARE IF I'VE BEEN HURT?
YOU WERE MAD. TRUE ENOUGH. BUT IF YOU WANTED ME TO DIE
..WHY, WHEN THE CEILING CAME DOWN, WAS YOUR FIRST THOUGHT TO WARN ME?
YOU...YOU'RE RIGHT. IT WASN'T YOU I WANTED DEAD. IT WAS DE'CINE..AND ALL THE SNEERING COURTIERS.
I WAS.. WRONG TO TAKE IT OUT ON YOU
AND ON THE PALACE. THIS PLACE IS A DISASTER
SUCH THINGS HAPPEN! THE ALMERACIANS ARE A WARRIOR RACE AND TEMPERS HAVE BEEN BRED INTO US.
IT IS A PITY YOU WON'T MARRY ME. THE OTHERS, FOR ALL THEIR SNIGGERING, ARE AFRAID OF ME...
...AND THEY ALLOW ME ANY EXCESS. FAR BETTER TO DEAL WITH EQUALS WHEN YOU ARE AS STRONG AS WE ARE...
...TO VENT YOUR ANGER ON THOSE STRONG ENOUGH TO BEAR IT. IN BATTLE, WE HAVE NEVER HAD TO HOLD BACK...
NOR WOULD WE IN LOVE.
I NEVER THOUGHT OF IT LIKE THAT BEFORE, BUT IN A WAY, SHE'S RIGHT
IN ALL MY DEALINGS WITH EARTHLINGS; IN WAR AND IN LOVE, I HAD TO BE SO CAREFUL.

AND IN THE END IT WAS BECAUSE OF MY CARELESSNESS, MY LACK OF THOUGHT, THAT LOIS DIED
HOW CAN I HAVE A.. LIFE HERE ON ALMERAC? MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MAX IS SOMETIMES SO VOLATILE
WHERE LOIS AND I HAD A TRUE MELDING OF MINDS AND SOULS
LOIS... IT'S ALWAYS THE PERFECT LOIS, STANDING LIKE A GHOST BETWEEN US.
AND NOW THAT I'VE SHOWN HIM MY TRUE COLORS, MY REAL TEMPER, ALL IS LOST.
TAKE THE PRISONERS AND DO WITH THEM AS YOU WILL. I WANT NOTHING MORE TO DO WITH THEM
IT'S OBVIOUS TO ALL THAT MAXIMA WANTS KAL-EL, AND THAT, IN TIME, HE WILL COME TO WANT HER, TOO
I MUST NOT GIVE THEM TIME! I MUST RID MYSELF OF HIM..
" BUT HOW?"
GET OUT, ALL OF YOU, JUST-- GET OUT!
MISTRESS WHAT IS IT?
KAL-EL COMPARES EVERYTHING HE SEES ON ALMERAC TO EARTH.. IN HIS MIND IF NOT OUT LOUD
HE EVEN DARES COMPARE ME TO HIS LONG LOST WIFE AND ALWAYS UNFAVORABLY!

BUT HE IS WEAKENING. I CAN SEE IT IN HIS FACE THAT HE'S BECOMING FOND OF YOU.
SURELY, IN TIME
HE IS FOND OF ME... LIKE A FRIEND, NOT A LOVER AND I HAVEN'T GOT TIME!
THEY'LL GIVE ME TO DE'CINE AND I'LL BE HONOR-BOUND TO HIM FOREVER.
IT'S FUNNY, ISN'T IT? BEFORE I KNEW KAL-EL WELL, I WOULD HAVE TAKEN HIM UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES
.. FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILD I WOULD BEAR.
NOW I WANT ALL OF HIM. I WANT HIS LOVE. AND HIS LOVE IS FOR LOIS.. AND FOR EARTH.
IS THERE NOTHING I CAN DO?
DO NOT BE A FOOL, SAZU! YOU CAN NO MORE DESTROY EARTH AND MY GHOST RIVAL THAN I CAN
NOR CAN YOU ORDER THAT LOUT DE'CINE AWAY FROM HERE
YOUR ONLY SUGGESTION IS THAT I ACT HELPLESS AND THAT HASN'T LURED HIM ANY BETTER THAN MY ARROGANCE
MAYBE THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SO INEFFECTIVE AT BEING HELPLESS!
WHAT..? I--!?
JUST GET OUT! GET OUT!
THOUGH MAXIMA MUST NEVER KNOW IT, I CAN HELP HER
AND I CAN KILL SEVERAL THROATS...

, WITH A SINGLE KRATAN"
I HAVE MY OWN REASONS FOR TELLING YOU THIS, MY LORD. BUT YOU WOULD DO WELL TO HEED ME!
YOU CAN CAUSE YOUR HATED RIVAL TO LOSE FACE AND MY MISTRESS'S ESTEEM..
, SIMPLY BY DESTROYING THE KRYPTONIAN'S ADOPTED PLANET, EARTH
AN INTERESTING SUGGESTION SLAVE' SHOULD YOUR IDEA PROVE USEFUL YOU WILL BE PROPERLY REWARDED
HE'S TAKEN THE BAIT!
SOON, KAL-EL WILL NOT LEAVE MAXIMA BECAUSE HE'LL NO LONGER HAVE A HOME TO RETURN TO.
AND ANY EVIDENCE CONCERNING EARTH'S DESTRUCTION WILL REVEAL ONLY DE GINE'S HAND
I WILL HAVE REPAID KAL-EL FOR CAUSING THE ONLY RIFT BETWEEN MY MISTRESS AND ME...
...BUT KAL-EL'S ANGER WILL BE AGAINST DE GINE THUS THE EMPIRE WILL GAIN A MIGHTY WARRIOR..
WHILE I SHOULD ESCAPE ALL BLAME AN ALTOGETHER SATISFACTORY OUTCOME.
NOW I MUST SIMPLY AVOID HAVING MAXIMA READ THE TRUTH IN , MY MIND.
NO PROBLEM, REALLY, SINCE MY MISTRESS HAS NO INTEREST..

" IN HER SERVANT'S PLANS "
THE CYBORG DE'CINE LEFT ALMERAC VERY ABRUPTLY
HE SAW MAXIMA'S TEMPER AND HE FLED!
JUST AS WELL THAT COWARD LEARNED HE DARE NOT FACE HER FURY, NOW, BEFORE THEY ARE WED!
KAL-EL FELT THE FULL FORCE OF HER ANGER! WHY IS HE STILL HERE?
YOU HEAR THEM, KRYPTONIAN, AS WELL AS I DO! WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THEIR WHISPERING?
I THINK YOU CAN BE VERY FEARSOME.. THAT PERHAPS EVEN DE'CINE WAS AFRAID...
...BUT I THINK YOU WOULD RULE MORE EFFECTIVELY THROUGH LOYALTY AND MUTUAL BENEFIT THAN YOU WOULD THROUGH FEAR
ABSURD!
IS IT? SHALL WE MAKE A SMALL WAGER? YOU CAN READ MINDS AND WILL KNOW IF MY PROPOSED METHOD SUCCEEDS OR FAILS
A WAGER, THEN IF YOU ARE RIGHT, I WILL GIVE YOU A SHIP OF YOUR OWN!
AND WHAT FORFEIT WILL YOU ASK IF I LOSE?
A KISS, FREELY GIVEN
DONE
WHO SHALL THE TEST SUBJECT BE?
WHAT ABOUT THE LITTLE GARDENER?

WHAT SHALL I ASK HIM FOR?
THE RIPEST AND MOST DELICIOUS FRUIT FROM THIS TREE. TO WHICH YOU HAVE THE RIGHT, IN ANY CASE.
BUT THE RULES ARE THAT YOU MUST ASK HIM NICELY!
YOU-- GARDENER!
Y-YES, MISTRESS ?
QUICKLY NOW! BRING ME THE RIPEST, MOST DELICIOUS FRUIT--
NICELY, MAX!
? OH, VERY WELL ..
PLEASE..?
SHE SAID "PLEASE" TO ME! SHE THE BEAUTIFUL AND TERRIBLE MAXIMA.
OH, SHE MUST THINK I M A WONDERFUL GARDENER TO SMILE AT ME LIKE THAT.
...TO ASK SO PLEASANTLY!
AND I WILL SHOW HER THAT IT S SO. SHE MUST HAVE THE BEST THE VERY BEST.
FOR YOU, MISTRESS! THE BEST THIS GARDEN HAS TO OFFER, THOUGH, IN TRUTH ITS COLOR PALES BESIDE THE GLORY OF YOUR SMILE!
T-THANK YOU, GARDENER!
I DID NOT KNOW MY GARDENERS WERE SUCH POETS,! NOR THAT FRUIT TENDED BY SUCH A POET WOULD TASTE SO SWEET!

WHAT A GOOD INFLUENCE THE KRYPTONIAN IS ON HER.
IF SHE WAS LIKE THIS, ALWAYS, I WOULD WORK DAY AND NIGHT TO SEE THIS GARDEN BLOOM LIKE AN ORCHARD OF THE GODS.
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I HEARD .. I READ HIS MIND . I . DIDN'T KNOW THANK YOU FOR SHOWING ME.
THIS TIME, YOU WIN.
A PITY, BUT
WHY? YOU WON THE WAGER THE SHIP IS YOURS
I SUSPECT, THIS TIME..
" WE BOTH HAVE WON "

SAZU, WHAT IS THAT?
FROM ONE OF THE GARDENERS, A LITTLE WINGED FELLOW. HE SAID HE SEARCHED THE GARDEN AND ONLY, THESE WERE WORTHY OF YOU.
DID HE? HE MUST BE REWARDED FOR HIS DILIGENCE
I HAVE NEVER SEEN MY WARRIOR SO HAPPY CAN IT BE THAT SHE IS ABOUT TO SUCCEED?
THANK YOU FOR BRINGING THEM, SAZU. IN THE MORNING I WILL SHARE THEM
" WITH KAL-EL "
EARTH IS OUT THERE SOMEWHERE, ITS SUN SO DISTANT EVEN I HAVE TROUBLE SEEING IT
AND ON THAT EARTH IS LOIS'S GRAVE. LOIS, WHOM I LOVED MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF
MAXIMA, IN SOME WAYS, IS NOT UNLIKE HER. SHE HAS INTELLIGENCE AND FIRE...
SOMETIMES MISDIRECTED BUT THEN SHE WAS RAISED BRUTALLY, IN A CONQUERING CULTURE.
IF I HAVE SHOWN HER ANOTHER WAY OF RULING, MY PRESENCE HERE ON ALMERAC HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL, DESIRABLE, AND SHE LOVES ME WOULD IT BE SO HARD TO LOVE HER BACK... TO TREAT HER AS SHE WISHES?
I JUST... DON'T KNOW. LOIS SHOWED ME WHAT HEAVEN LOVE CAN BE.
I'LL TAKE MY NEW-WON SHIP.. RETURN TO EARTH, TONIGHT! I'LL VISIT LOIS'S GRAVE
...AND TALK TO MA AND PA IT MIGHT HELP ME DECIDE WHAT I SHOULD DO

"THE SHIP I WON IS SWIFT I SHOULD BE WELL ON MY WAY BY MORNING."

KAL-EL, OUR LITTLE GARDENER BROUGHT ME A BASKET FILLED WITH *FRUIT!*

I THOUGHT WE MIGHT BREAKFAST..

I'M SORRY, MISTRESS HE'S *GONE!*

GONE? WHERE? IS HE *SWIMMING* OR..

HE DIDN'T SAY HE LEFT THAT *NOTE*

"IT SAYS HE HAS TAKEN HIS SHIP AND HAS RETURNED TO EARTH.. TO CONSIDER HIS *FUTURE.*"

THAT IS *GOOD NEWS*, IS IT NOT, GAZU? AT LEAST... IF HE DECIDES HIS FUTURE SHOULD BE *WITH ME.*

HE ASSURES ME OF HIS *AFFECTION* AND SAYS HE WILL RETURN TO ALMERAC SOON

CONGRATULATIONS! HE MUST ALMOST BE YOURS IF WHEN HE NEEDS TO THINK, HE MUST GET AS FAR FROM YOU AS...

...EARTH?!

OF COURSE WHERE *ELSE* WOULD HE BE..?

SAZU, WHY SHOULD *YOU* CARE IF HE VISITS HIS HOME?

I AM *DON'T* THAT IS.

DAMN ME FOR A FOOL THERE IS NO MORE HIDING THE TRUTH I MUST *TELL* HER, QUICKLY AND TRY TO HIDE MY PART IN IT IF I CAN

I SUSPECT THAT *DECIME* HAS ALSO GONE TO EARTH

DE'CINE--? BUT WHY WOULD HE GO THERE?
A FOOLISH QUESTION! WHY ELSE, BUT TO DESTROY THE HOME OF A HATED RIVAL?
SAZU, HOW DO YOU KNOW WHERE DE'CINE HAS GONE?
I... OVERHEARD. THAT IS, I--
SUSPECTS I MAY AS WELL TELL HER EVERYTHING... SHE WILL LEARN IT SOON ENOUGH ANYWAY.
YOU WANTED DE'CINE GONE. AND EARTH AND KAL-EL'S DEAD WIFE ERASED FROM KAL-EL S MEMORY.
I... DISCOVERED A WAY TO GIVE YOU ALL THREE WISHES
YOU WHAT--?!
I THINK MY MISTRESS IT WILL WORK. KAL-EL WILL FIND HIS WORLD DESTROYED AND BLAME ONLY DE'CINE.
AND HE WILL BE YOURS
OH, WILL HE--? AND WHAT IF KAL-EL CONFRONTS DE'CINE AND LEARNS IT WAS MY SERVANT WHO INITIATED THE ATTACK?
MIGHT HE NOT BLAME ME FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF HIS ADOPTED WORLD AND THE DEATH OF THE HUMANS HE HOLDS DEAR ?
WHAT IF DE'CINE DESTROYS KAL-EL AS WELL--?
THEN I WILL BE DEAD ALONG-SIDE OF HIM.
PARDON, MISTRESS I DID NOT THINK HE WAS NOT SUPPOSED TO RETURN TO EARTH SO SOON!
ONE MORE WORD, SAZU, AND YOU WILL NOT HAVE A HEAD TO BEG WITH!
IMPRISON MY SLAVE IN THE DEEPEST, DANKEST DUNGEON! GUARD HER CLOSELY. AND AWAIT MY FURTHER COMMAND CONCERNING HER!
PREPARE MY BATTLE ARMOR! AND HAVE MY YACHT PREPARED AS WELL.
I MUST CATCH UP WITH KAL-EL BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

SO, FINALLY, SUPERMAN RETURNS TO EARTH

AND HE WILL ARRIVE WITH ALMERACIAN TECHNOLOGY THIS COULD GIVE HIM THE ADDED POWER HE'D NEED TO BECOME THE MONARCH

BUT WILL HE HAVE THE WILL? IT IS UNLIKELY, AT LEAST AT PRESENT HIS THOUGHTS ARE NOT ON CONQUEST.

CAN WHAT I'M FEELING BE REAL? CAN I HAVE TRULY LEFT MY HEART BEHIND ON ALMERAC?

IT FEELS SO... RIGHT AND YET, SO LIKE BETRAYAL NOT THAT LOIS WOULD SEE IT THAT WAY

SHE'D SAY "LOOK, KENT, MY BOOK'S CLOSED, SO OPEN ANOTHER ONE QUIT MOPING AND GET ON WITH YOUR LIFE!"

SHE WANTED MY HAPPINESS, AS I WANTED HERS. SHE WOULDN'T BLAME ME. FOR ANYTHING. SO WHY DO I BLAME MYSELF?

BECAUSE I DON'T DESERVE TO LOVE AGAIN? OR BECAUSE I HARDLY DARE?

I'VE DROPPED FROM HYPER-SPACE IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE I'M HOME...

GREAT SCOTT! WHAT'S THAT?!

AN ALMERACIAN SPACE FLIGHT HAS JUST WARPED INTO OUR VICINITY.

ALMERACIAN ? ESTABLISH VISUAL CONTACT!
CONTACT CONFIRMED!
WELL WELL, WELL
WELCOME, KRYPTONIAN! I HAD CEASED TO HOPE THAT YOU WOULD ARRIVE TO WITNESS THE RUIN OF YOUR ADOPTED WORLD
DE'CINE' YOU WOULDN'T DARE' YOU CAN'T--!
WE WILL REACH FIRING POSITION IN TWO MINUTES!
PROCEED!
I WILL SHATTER THE PLANET'S CRUST AND SUCK OUT ITS ENERGY CORE AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP ME
ISN'T THERE ?
THE ALMERACIAN VAGRANT IS CLOSING AT MACH 5 ON A COLLISION COURSE--
DESTROY IT
AS YOU COMMAND LOCKED ON TARGET
" YOU ARE REPORTED TO BE INDESTRUCTIBLE, KRYPTONIAN

...AND I AM PLEASED TO SEE THAT IT IS SO, FOR THIS MEANS YOU ARE STILL IN POSITION TO OBSERVE EARTH'S DISSOLUTION!

FIRING POSITION ACHIEVED. AWAITING YOUR COMMAND...

IGNITE THE SEEGEL DISRUPTORS!

USE YOUR *TELESCOPIC VISION*, MAN OF STEEL! OBSERVE THE EFFECTS OF THE KIRTZBURG PARTICLE BEAM!

AND REMEMBER... *THIS* IS ONLY A TEST!

SET THE BEAM FOR *ONE-FIFTIETH* POWER! TAKE AIM AND-- *FIRE!*

MA! PA!

WHAT IS IT, JONATHAN?

EARTHQUAKE BUT LIKE NO QUAKE I EVER *HEARD* OF!

THE BEAM STRUCK IN THE *MID-ATLANTIC* AND *THAT* WAS THE EFFECT!

IMAGINE WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF IT FOCUSED ON THE SHIFTING *PLATES* ALONG THE PACIFIC RIM!

MY UNINVITED ENTRY SHOULD CAUSE A MASSIVE *DECOMPRESSION* IF I'M LUCKY IT WILL DISRUPT HIS ACTIVITIES!

THAT MONSTER WILL *DESTROY* THE EARTH AND EVERYONE I HOLD DEAR.

UNLESS I CAN *STOP* HIM!

THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN A MASSIVE DECOMPRESSION ON WHAT WENT WRONG?

STILL, DE'CINE SEEMS TO HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT I HAVE X-RAY VISION...

. AND CAN EASILY LOCATE HIM THERE ON H.S SHIP'S BRIDGE.

ORGANIC MISSILE HAS GAINED UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY. IMPLEMENTING BACK UP SHIELDING AND IMMEDIATE REPAIR.

EXCELLENT! ACTIVATE THE GAOOSTAN TECHNO-WEBBING!

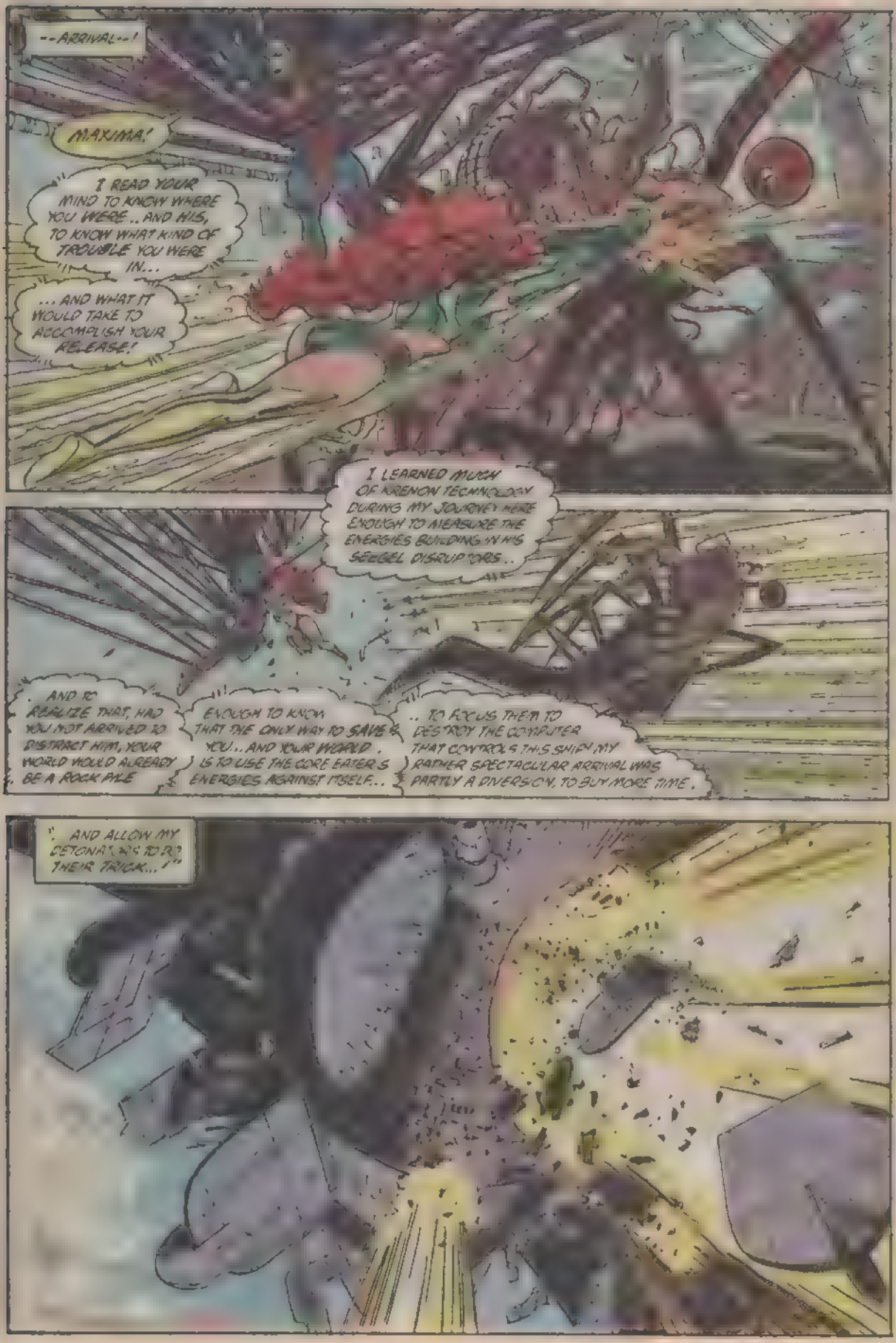
TECHNO-WEBBING HAS BEEN ACTIVATED'

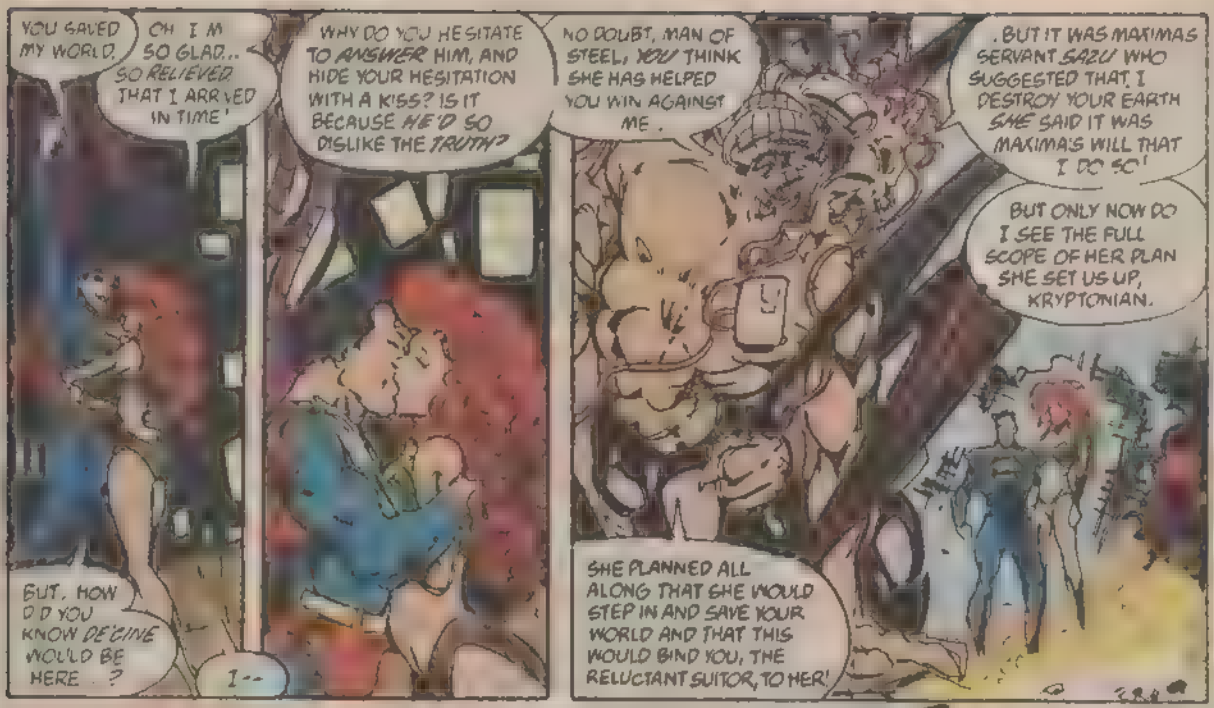
AH, KRYPTONIAN, YOU ARE NOTHING IF NOT PERSISTENT. AND, WERE THIS NOT A KRENON VESSEL, YOUR EFFORT MIGHT EVEN HAVE CRIPPLED ME

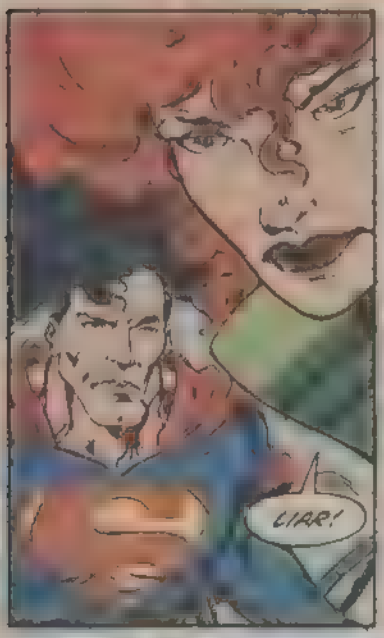
WHAT THE HECK?

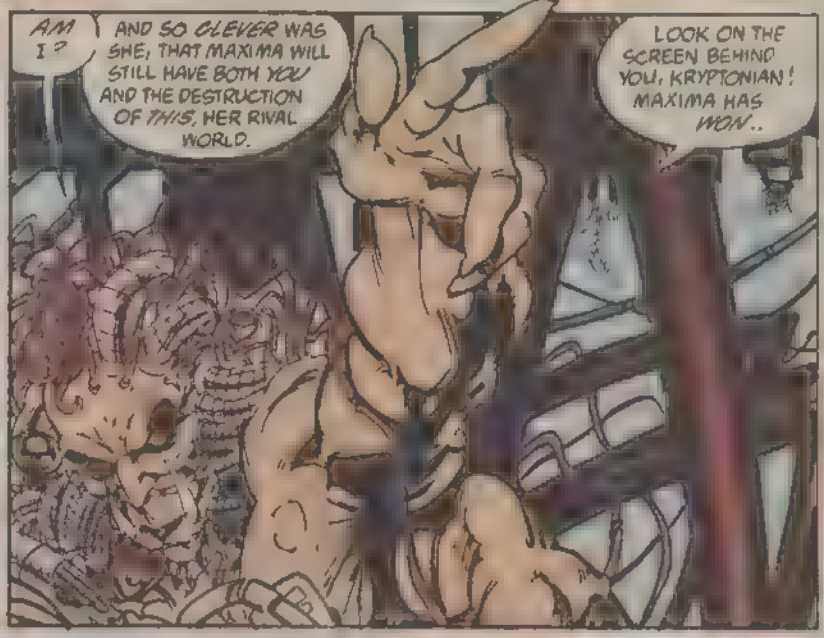
A GAME TRY, BUT, AS YOU SEE, THE WEBBING BLUNTS THE EFFECTS OF YOUR HEAT VISION AS IT DOES YOUR STRENGTH
STILL, EVEN I AM BECOMING CONVINCED THAT WITHOUT RESTRAINT YOU WOULD BE AS DANGEROUS AS YOUR REPUTATION SUGGESTS
THAT IS WHY IT PLEASES ME THAT YOU SHOULD FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU WILL SEE ON THE SCREENS BEFORE US
AND KNOW HOW HELPLESS YOU ARE TO STOP IT!
NOW OBSERVE! I WANT YOU TO HAVE A FULL APPRECIATION OF THE PARTICLE BEAM'S ACCURACY AS WELL AS ITS POWER
YOU SEE THAT BUILDING ON THE SCREEN, THE ONE IN THE HUMANS' CITY YOU WERE SAID TO FAVOR?
NOW WATCH! A SINGLE NARROW BEAM OF ENERGY APPLIED AT THE GLOBE'S BASE AND--
RUIN!
--THE SKY IS FALLING! FASCINATING, ISN'T IT?
WHAT IS IT WITH YOU, MAN OF STEEL? I DON'T BELIEVE YOU'VE LISTENED TO A SINGLE WORD I'VE SAID
I LISTENED ALL RIGHT WHILE I TESTED THESE BONDS ENOUGH TO LEARN THAT THE MORE I STRUGGLE, THE TIGHTER THE WEBBING HOLDS ME
AND THE WEAKER I SEEM TO GET! SOMEHOW THE STRANDS ARE DRAINING MY POWER
IF I COULD SLOW MY LIFE FUNCTIONS SO THAT I APPEARED DEAD, THE WEBBING WOULD RELAX, I MIGHT ACCOMPLISH IT, BUT IT WOULD TAKE TIME..

.. AND TIME IS ONE THING I HAVEN'T GOT!
I'VE DEMONSTRATED THE BEAM'S ACCURACY! NOW WATCH WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR WORLD WHEN I INCREASE ITS FORCE...
NO!
GOT TO KEEP HIM AWAY FROM THE CONTROLS AND TOO DISTRACTED TO GIVE ORDERS!
WOOOSH!
CAN'T MOVE MY ARMS OR LEGS. BUT I CAN STILL BREATHE AND A BLAST OF A.R. SHOULD CATCH HIM OFF GUARD!
A FINE TRICK, KRYPTONIAN, BUT IT WILL WORK ONLY ONCE. =GAGH--!
MASTER A SECOND YACHT HAS WARPED INTO A.R.-SPACE!
A YACHT? REALLY, KRYPTONIAN, YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN WISER TO INCLUDE A DESTROYER OR TWO IN YOUR REINFORCEMENTS!
NOT THAT THEY WOULD HAVE DONE YOU MORE GOOD THAN THE YACHT!
ENERGY IS BUILDING WITHIN THE ALMERACIAN'S HULL...ENERGY CAPSULE APPROACHING
IT IS ONE OF THE R TELEPORTATION DEVICES DESTROY T
CAPSULE HAS TAKEN EVASIVE ACTION. ONE SECOND TO--


--ARRIVAL--!
MAXIMA!
I READ YOUR MIND TO KNOW WHERE YOU WERE.. AND HIS, TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF TROUBLE YOU WERE IN...
...AND WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO ACCOMPLISH YOUR RELEASE!
I LEARNED MUCH OF KRENON TECHNOLOGY DURING MY JOURNEY HERE ENOUGH TO MEASURE THE ENERGIES BUILDING IN HIS SEEGEL DISRUPTORS..
..AND TO REALIZE THAT, HAD YOU NOT ARRIVED TO DISTRACT HIM, YOUR WORLD WOULD ALREADY BE A ROCK PILE
ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE YOU.. AND YOUR WORLD, IS TO USE THE CORE EATER'S ENERGIES AGAINST ITSELF...
..TO FOCUS THEM TO DESTROY THE COMPUTER THAT CONTROLS THIS SHIP. MY RATHER SPECTACULAR ARRIVAL WAS PARTLY A DIVERSION, TO BUY MORE TIME.
"..AND ALLOW MY DETONATIONS TO DO THEIR TRICK..."


YOU SAVED MY WORLD.
OH I M SO GLAD.. SO RELIEVED THAT I ARRIVED IN TIME!
WHY DO YOU HESITATE TO ANSWER HIM, AND HIDE YOUR HESITATION WITH A KISS? IS IT BECAUSE HE'D SO DISLIKE THE TRUTH?
NO DOUBT, MAN OF STEEL, YOU THINK SHE HAS HELPED YOU WIN AGAINST ME.
. BUT IT WAS MAXIMAS SERVANT SAZU WHO SUGGESTED THAT I DESTROY YOUR EARTH SHE SAID IT WAS MAXIMA'S WILL THAT I DO SO!
BUT ONLY NOW DO I SEE THE FULL SCOPE OF HER PLAN SHE SET US UP, KRYPTONIAN.
BUT, HOW D D YOU KNOW DEVINE WOULD BE HERE ?
I--
SHE PLANNED ALL ALONG THAT SHE WOULD STEP IN AND SAVE YOUR WORLD AND THAT THIS WOULD BIND YOU, THE RELUCTANT SUITOR, TO HER!


LIAR!


AM I?
AND SO CLEVER WAS SHE; THAT MAXIMA WILL STILL HAVE BOTH YOU AND THE DESTRUCTION OF THIS, HER RIVAL WORLD.
LOOK ON THE SCREEN BEHIND YOU, KRYPTONIAN! MAXIMA HAS WON..

AFTER . ALL .
GREAT SCOTT!
I I D DN'T KNOW TRULY I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT WITHOUT THE COMPUTER TO MAINTAIN ITS ORBIT, THE CORE EATER WOULD FALL TOWARD EARTH!

ITS IMPACT COULD DESTROY METROPOLIS AND THROW UP DUST AND GASSES THAT WOULD CREATE A NUCLEAR WINTER.
IT WOULD MAKE EARTH UNINHABITABLE! DESTROY IT AS SURELY AS THE PARTICLE BEAM!
HE IS IN SHOCK NOW, BUT SOON HE'LL LISTEN TO HIS OWN WORDS AND WILL BELIEVE WHAT DE'CINE TOLD HIM .. THAT I MEANT HIS WORLD HARM!
THIS TIME, I HAVE TRULY LOST HIM.. BUT THIS DISASTER IS MY FAULT, NOT HIS..
..AND I WILL NOT HAVE HIM LOSE HIS WORLD BECAUSE OF MY CHILDISH GRUMBLINGS TO AN OFFICIOUS SLAVE!
ALONE, NEITHER OF US WOULD HAVE A CHANCE, BUT TOGETHER, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO..
SLOW
THE WEAPON S
..DESCENT
KAL-EL, WE DID IT! BUT WE CANNOT HOLD IT HERE, FOREVER!
WHAT NOW?

WE HEAD FOR SPACE... SHOVE THIS MONSTER OUT OF EARTH'S ORBIT AND TOWARD THE SUN..!
MAX, I WANT TO THANK YOU. FOR YOUR TIMELY ARRIVAL. FOR YOUR EFFORTS TO SAVE MY WORLD
I...
I DO NOT HAVE TO READ HIS MIND TO KNOW HE MEANS WHAT HE SAYS HE BELIEVES IN ME. DISCOUNTS EVERY WORD DE'CINE SAID!
I LOVE HIM. I WANT HIM TO LOVE ME. AND YET I WILL NOT HAVE HIM LOVE A LIE...!
IF DE'CINE WERE NOT ALREADY DEAD, KAL-EL I WOULD KILL HIM FOR WHAT HE TRIED TO DO HERE..
.BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW THERE WAS SOME TRUTH SCATTERED AMONG DE'CINE'S LIES
AFTER WE FOUGHT IN THE THRONE ROOM, I WAS ANGRY WITH YOU AND WISHED FOR SOME WAY TO RID MYSELF OF DE'CINE..
...AND YOUR MEMORIES OF EARTH. SAZU HEARD ME, AND IMPLEMENTED THIS PLAN ON HER OWN AUTHORITY.
SHE OVERSTEPPED HER BOUNDS AND WILL BE PUNISHED SEVERELY, THOUGH WHAT SHE DID, SHE DID FOR LOVE FOR ME.
WHEN I LEARNED WHAT MY SERVANT HAD DONE, IT WAS ALMOST TOO LATE AND.. I'M SORRY, IN REALITY, I WISH YOUR WORLD NO HARM.
MAXIMA. THANK YOU FOR TELLING ME THE TRUTH
BUT WHY DO YOU BELIEVE ME? HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S--
--THE TRUTH? BECAUSE IF YOU HAD TRULY PLANNED TO DESTROY THE EARTH YOU'D BE SCOWLING AT ME AND SHOUTING...
"..I'D DO IT AGAIN IN A MINUTE, AND THE NEXT TIME I WON'T FAIL" I'VE NOTICED THAT YOU'RE NOT VERY GOOD AT DISSEMBLING
SO SAZU HAS RATTLED THE EARTH AND YET NO LIVES WERE LOST, NO PERMANENT DAMAGE DONE...

BUT, LOVE, THAT SIMPLY ISN'T SO!
DE'CINE WAS SLIME, BUT HE WAS A PRINCE ON HIS WORLD. EVEN AS HE DIED, HIS ROBOT MINIONS WERE SENDING WORD TO HIS FAMILY.
THEY'RE A PETTY LOT-- YOU SAW HOW DE'CINE WAS READY TO DESTROY A WORLD TO CONFOUND A RIVAL--AND THE REST ARE MUCH THE SAME
EVEN THOUGH DE'CINE PICKED THE QUARREL, HIS MOTHER WILL NOW STOP AT NOTHING TO DESTROY BOTH OF US...
.. WHEREVER WE ARE AND WITH ALL THE POWER IN HER ARSENAL.
THEN IF I STAY ON EARTH I COULD INVOLVE IT IN A WAR THAT WILL DESTROY IT?
NOT NECESSARILY WITH MY HELP, YOU COULD TAKE OVER THE EARTH, FORCE IT TO JOIN THE EMPIRE..
.. AND MARSHALL THE EMPIRE'S FORCES AGAINST THE KRENONS.
IS THIS HOW AND WHY.. IT WILL HAPPEN? HOW SUASSAMAN WILL BECOME THE MONARCH, WITH ALL THE BEST INTENTIONS TO PRESERVE HIS WORLD?
NO THAT, TOO, WOULD DESTROY THE EARTH AS I KNOW AND LOVE IT WOULD FORCE IT TO A MATURITY BEYOND ITS PRESENT ABILITIES.
THEN COME WITH ME BACK TO ALMERAC WE ARE ALREADY INVOLVED IN AN UNDECLARED WAR WITH THE KRENONS
AND I FOR ONE, WOULD RATHER FIGHT THEM OPENLY
WE WILL LET THE KRENON QUEEN-MOTHER KNOW THAT YOU'VE JOINED US...
... AND HER ANGER WILL BE AIMED ENTIRELY AT ALMERAC, WHILE EARTH WILL BE FORGOTTEN.
IN FACT, AN OPEN WAR WITH A POWERFUL RIVAL MAY WELL BE WHAT ALMERAC NEEDS RIGHT NOW!
MY COUNCILLORS HAVE INDEED GROWN SOFT IF THEY WOULD BUY PEACE BY MARRYING ME TO A SLUG LIKE DE'CINE!
SO WILL YOU COME WITH ME TO ALMERAC AND HELP DEFEAT THE KRENONS?

RIGHT NOW I CAN'T SEE THAT I'VE GOT MUCH *CHOICE* IT IS A SMALL PRICE IF IT WILL BUY EARTH'S SAFETY

WHEN THE KRENONS ARE BEATEN, YOU CAN *RETURN* HERE SAFELY... IF YOU SO CHOOSE..

DON'T BE SAD, KAL-EL PLEASE. EARTH *RAISED* YOU, BUT YOU'VE GROWN TOO BIG FOR IT NOW

IT'S TIME YOU TOOK YOUR PLACE IN A *LARGER* UNIVERSE

BESIDE YOU?

THAT IS MY *WISH*. I PRAY, THAT IN TIME IT WILL BECOME *YOURS*

JUST THINK, KAL-EL. WHAT FINE *CHILDREN* WE WOULD HAVE TOGETHER...

KJK

HAD SUPERMAN NOT RETURNED TO SPACE IN THAT TIMELINE, HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ON EARTH TO STOP THE MONARCH..

. . INDEED, THE MONARCH MIGHT NEVER HAVE ARISEN OF COURSE THERE WOULD BE NOTHING LEFT FOR THE MONARCH TO COVET

BUT AT LEAST I HAVE MY *ANSWER*. IN NONE OF THE TIMELINES HAS SUPERMAN BEEN THE DARK ANGEL. AND SO I WILL TEST HIM NO *MORE*!

EARTH TO CLARK.. CLARK, ARE YOU SURE *INTERVENTION* IS WITH AN "E"?

WHAT--?

INTERVENTION.. AS IN SUPERMAN'S THIS *ARTICLE*, BABE, ON THE S&L ROBBER? REMEMBER?

SORRY LOIS JUST WOOL GATHERING I GUESS

LOIS HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT *CHILDREN*?

OF *COURSE* I HAVE I'M JUST NOT PLANNING TO HAVE ANY IN THE NEXT YEAR OR TWO. WHY--?

CLARK, ARE YOU *ALL RIGHT*?

SURE WHY WOULDN'T I BE?

I DUNNO FOR A MINUTE THERE YOU SEEMED TO BE A *MILLION MILES* AWAY

THE SAGA OF WAVERIDER WILL BE CONTINUED IN JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE ANNUAL #2!

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EXTRA! EXTRA!
STILL YET ONE MORE NEWSBOY LEGION™ MINI-EPIC!
YIPPEE!

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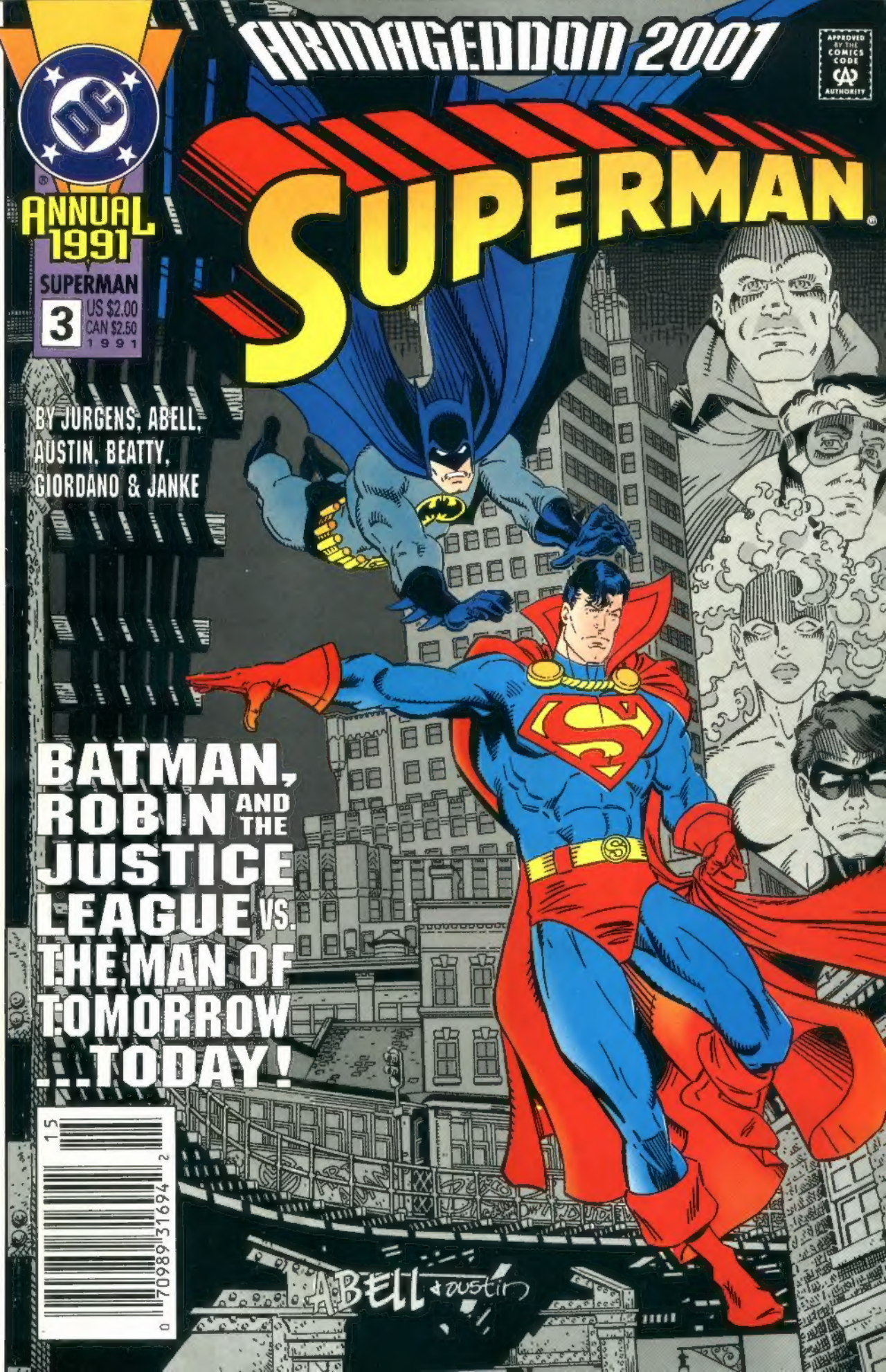
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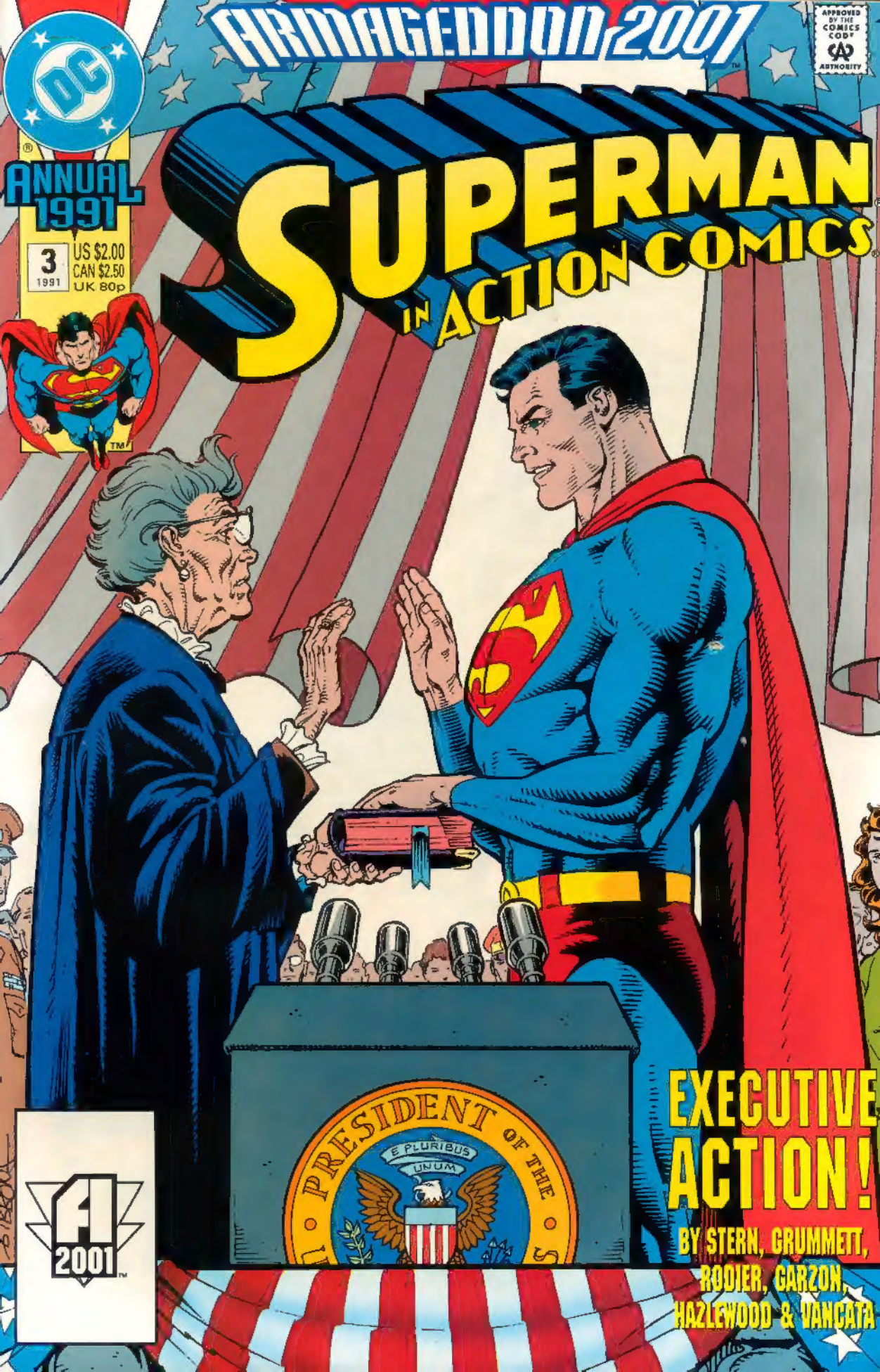
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HERE LIES
LOIS LANE-KENT

BELOVED WIFE OF
CLARK KENT

DIED WHILE CARRYING
THEIR ONLY CHILD.

"THERE CAN BE ONLY YOU"

In loving memory of your - Clark

BRYAN Hitch 91'

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